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Vermont Life

SUMMER FAIRS

Periodicals

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SUMMER
FUN
Issue

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PLUS 7 easy-to-enjoy
LAKE ADVENTURES p. 40

HIKE THE
GLASTENBURY WILDERNESS p. 34

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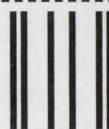
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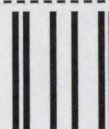
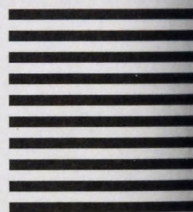
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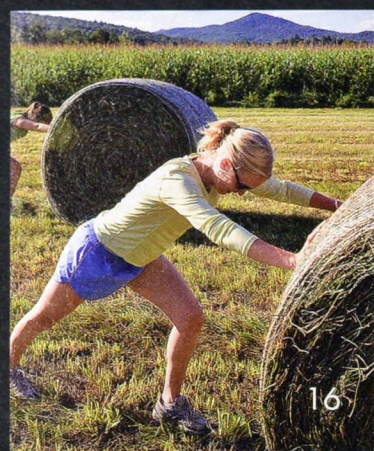
Base Camp

A summer haven provides stability and fun for kids from the hardscrabble side of rural life

Cover: Tunbridge World's Fair
Photographed by Daria Bishop

Jim Westphalen





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www.VermontLife.com

Enjoy multimedia extras linked to stories in this issue:

SLIDE SHOW

Photographer Daria Bishop spent last summer at Vermont's agricultural fairs. The results are dazzling ("Ticket to Ride," page 22). For more images, see our web slide show.



- Orleans County Fair
Barton
Aug. 19–23
- Champlain Valley Fair
Essex Junction
Aug. 29–Sept. 7
- Tunbridge World's Fair
Tunbridge
Sept. 17–20
- Addison County Fair
& Field Days
New Haven
Aug. 4–8
- Deerfield Valley Farmers' Day Fair
Wilmington
Aug. 27–30

For a list of other Vermont fairs, visit our website.

SLIDE SHOW

Camp Exclamation Point helps disadvantaged rural Vermont kids enjoy a summer camp experience. Our slide show highlights the work of photographer Jordan Silverman ("Base Camp," page 48).

MULTIMEDIA

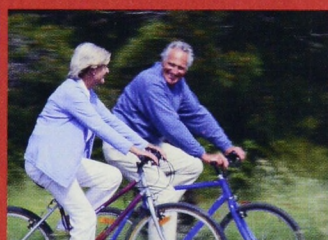
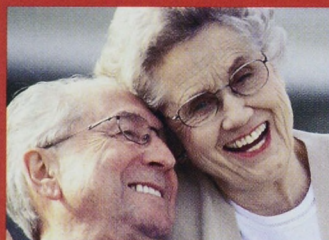
Each issue, This Season (page 6) tells you about cool things happening in Vermont. Check our web extras page for multimedia features related to upcoming concerts and events.

AUDIO

Castle Freeman Jr. reads his essay "Brush Piling" (page 80), inspired by his days at work in the wooded hill country of Vermont.



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Jim Westphalen

INSIDE VL

Fair Days

ONE DAY IN THE LATE '70S, I WAS allowed to skip school to attend the local fair. The day is forever etched in my mind because I could play hooky — unthinkable! — and go with my 23-year-old brother John, one of six older siblings. We shared pizza and cotton candy and pie, watched oxen and horse

pulls and went on rides that flipped us upside down, emptying our pockets of change. He won a goldfish for me. At 10 years old, it was pure happiness.

Shortly thereafter, that 170-year-old fair was plowed under, a victim of suburban sprawl in southwestern Connecticut. In its place grew up one of the largest shopping malls in New England. A parking lot now covers the ground where the midway and farm shows used to be.

Fortunately small-town agricultural fairs are alive and well in Vermont. Year after year, our fairs burst into life in what are usually quiet open fields: From Tunbridge to the Champlain Valley to Deerfield in southern Vermont, pies are judged, calves shown, rides enjoyed, and clowns ... well, clowns are avoided by most people.

The fairs provide fun and hope and relief from everyday life — a place for kids to let loose, for adults to forget the stress of field or office and for teenagers to meet — and sometimes even fall in love.

Last summer we asked photographer Daria Bishop to capture the magic of our fairs, and the result is "Ticket to Ride" (page 22) — a masterful portrait of the Vermont fair as it is today, complete with farm animals, rides, tattoos and text messaging. It is a glimpse into a part of summer that any Vermonter will surely recognize, but few stop to ponder. Our photos will help you see it, and appreciate it, in a whole new light.

Here's hoping the summer fair lives on in Vermont for many years to come, for generations of friends and families — sisters and brothers — to enjoy.

Also in this issue:

- Quadricentennial events celebrating Lake Champlain are hitting full stride this summer. For a quick take on some major festivities, turn to This Season (page 6). Also in this issue, we've devoted our book reviews (page 13) to the lake; provided a guide on how to get out on this magnificent body of water even if you don't own a boat ("Shore Leave," page 40); and added a rainy-day destination ("Open to Interpretation," page 46) about a traveling exhibit by 38 painters who convey their wonder of the lake. Want more Champlain? Look for our Celebrating Champlain special issue ... just visit www.vermontlifecatalog.com.

Mary

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VermontLife

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Andy Gimino

• NEED BEACH READING?

Take along a copy of *Celebrating Champlain*, published by *Vermont Life*. This 100-page collector's edition captures the sweep of the lake's history and includes a calendar of Quadricentennial events. Visit www.VermontLifeCatalog.com.

• FREEMAN'S FOURTH

Our last-page columnist, Newfane author Castle Freeman Jr., recently released his fourth novel, "All That I Have," about a small-town sheriff coping with change in rural Vermont. Publishers Weekly said Freeman "sets an intertwined network of provincial egos on a collision course and pulls it off through the wonderfully satisfying point of view of his deadpan sheriff."

INBOX

From Dexter Ovitt,
New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
(Regarding "Red Sox Nation, North,"
Spring 2009) Well done, but there is
no center to Red Sox Nation ... it's a
United States thing.

From Don Sackett, Island Pond,
via www.myspace.com
My utmost respect to your team of
well-established professionals, who
continue to show the world how awe-
some Vermont living can truly be.

From Michael Whitelock,
Metropolis, Ill.
I (enjoy reading) the formerly titled
My Vermont page and in the most re-
cent issue (Spring 2009) the first Ver-
mont Observed. Thanks so much for
these enlightening single-page items.

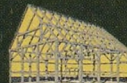
From Miriam Swartz,
North Andover, Mass.
I love reading *Vermont Life* and re-
ceiving your e-mails. I thank you for
a lovely publication, and I get lost in
your pictures.

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This Season

Places to go and things to do

This year is the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's historic visit to the lake that bears his name. Lake Champlain Quadricentennial events, celebrating the heritage and natural splendor of the lake, are taking place through 2009 and peak this summer. Upcoming "Signature Events" will include the following:

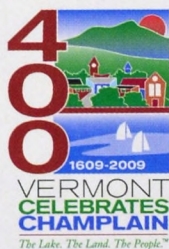
- ♦ St. Albans Franco-American Heritage Festival: Music, art, historical displays and more, with a Franco-American spin. June 18–20.

- ♦ Champlain International Waterfront Festival: A massive event on the Quadricentennial calendar, this sprawling festival contains a wealth of activities including a parade, fireworks, concerts by stars such as Buddy Guy and much more. July 2–14.

- ♦ Vergennes French Heritage Day: "The Oldest City in Vermont" showcases its heritage and French roots. July 18.

Other events include the Lake Champlain Maritime Festival, a natural history tour, a theme-night Lake Monsters baseball game, even a cycling route along Champlain's path.

There's something for every age and area of interest. For a complete list, visit www.Champlain400.com and click on "Events."



Jeb Wallace-Brodeur

May 21

Long Trail End-to-Enders' Workshop Green Mountain Club Headquarters, Waterbury Center

Is hiking the Long Trail — all 272 miles — a dream of yours? Hit the trail with the help of the Green Mountain Club and the collective wisdom of its members. Long Trail end-to-end veterans share the ins and outs of the trails, from bugs to food to snoring campmates. They'll get you prepared for maybe the longest walk of your life. 6:30 to 9 p.m. \$25. (802) 244-7037.

May 24

KeyBank Vermont City Marathon Burlington

Not in shape? Not a problem. Vermont's best-known marathon is as much a spectator sport as it is a running one. Boisterous, cheering onlookers do their best to encourage the 8,000 runners (individuals

and relay teams) on the 26.2-mile-long journey over the hilly Burlington terrain. It's a festive atmosphere, including Taiko drummers, runners occasionally in costumes and an emcee who keeps the festivities running smoothly. 8 a.m. wheelchair division start; 8:05 runner start. Free to watch. Top spot to watch is by the Burlington Waterfront, near the finish line. Arrive early; parking is difficult in Burlington this day. (802) 863-8412.

May 30–Aug. 30

Photography and the Quality of "Place"

Bennington Museum, Bennington

Photographers like Ansel Adams and Alfred Stieglitz are masters at capturing places and landscapes. It is the "quality of place" theme in their work — and others — that will be featured in this three-month-long exhibit. The exhibition



also contains photographs drawn from the Bennington Museum's permanent collection as well as other local collections. Many images feature the Bennington area, including stereographs created by the H. C. White Co. in North Bennington at the turn of the 20th century. \$9 and less. (802) 447-1571.

June 1–Oct. 12

SculptCycle

Montpelier

What happens when creative artists get their hands on bicycle parts — and are asked to design new sculptures? It's called SculptCycle, and the captivating results will be on display throughout Montpelier this summer. The program began last summer, and the 20 sculptures, some with moving parts, were enthusiastically received by the community. You can take a walking tour (free) and see the display, and even purchase one if you're interested. (802) 223-9604.

June 4

Emmylou Harris, Shawn Colvin, Patty Griffin and Buddy Miller

Shelburne Museum, Shelburne

What a night for music! One of Vermont's best summer series — the Ben & Jerry's Concerts on The Green — outdoes itself by putting four singer-songwriters on the same stage on one night. Harris, known for being a superb collaborator, joins forces with folksy Shawn Colvin, pop-rocker Patty Griffin and country-Americana artist Buddy Miller for a tour called "Three Girls and Their Buddy." This show will take place on the beautiful Shelburne Museum Green, where the sunsets provide better visuals than any light show you've ever seen. 6 p.m. \$50 in advance, \$54 day of. (888) 512-7469.

June 5–14

Burlington Discover Jazz Festival

Diana Krall, Branford Marsalis, Pink Martini and Esperanza Spalding are just a few of the headliners at this year's



Jeb Wallace-Brodeur

SculptCycle



Emmylou Harris



the subdudes



Esperanza Spalding



Rosanne Cash

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This Season

Burlington Discover Jazz Festival. Now in its 26th year, the festival pulls together A-list stars, emerging artists, cutting edge sounds and music-in-the-streets accessibility, all in a hip small city by Lake Champlain. The result is sublime. Ticket prices vary, some events free. (802) 863-5966; www.discoverjazz.com.

June 6

Barn Owl Dance with the subdudes Quechee

A benefit concert for the Pentangle Council on the Arts, this four-hour event will be held at the Vermont Institute for Natural Science Nature Center. Along with music by rootsy New Orleans band the subdudes, there will be a catered gourmet picnic, silent auction, tours of the grounds and a live raptor demonstration. 5 to 9 p.m. \$75. (802) 457-3981.

July 17

Rosanne Cash

Fuller Hall, St. Johnsbury

Country-folk star Rosanne Cash will treat the Northeast Kingdom to a quality of music that doesn't come 'round often to that corner of the state. The eldest daughter of the late Johnny Cash, Rosanne has made a name in her own right: The AllMusic guide calls her simply "one of the pre-eminent singer-songwriters of her day." She is back on the touring scene after surgery for a benign brain ailment, and in recent years she has also been writing a column, "Measure for Measure," for The New York Times. 7:30 p.m. \$30 and less. (802) 592-3190.

Aug. 22-23

Vermont Antiques Dealers Association Antiques Show Hunter Park Pavilion, Manchester

Who says antiques is ... antiquated? The Vermont Antiques Dealers Association hosts its yearly Antiques Show, and is allowing anyone 30 or under in for free. Seems like a great idea to welcome the next generation to the hobby — or sport, as some view it. Some of the best

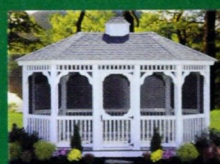
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Friday Night Sailing Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, Burlington

What better year to learn sailing or brush up on your skills than the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's visit to Vermont's big lake? The Community Sailing Center in Burlington offers an array of sailing events throughout the summer for first-timers on up to experienced racers. The most fun can be found on Friday nights, when the club hosts Ladies' Night Out, Couples' Night Out, Friday Mini Refresher and 420 Racing. Fees vary depending on activity. (802) 864-2499.

For additional calendar listings, please see page 72. Schedules subject to change: please call ahead to events.

If you subscribe to 802: The Green Mountain News, our e-newsletter, you'll get the most up-to-date list of places to go and things to do each month.

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ARTS LIFE

INAUGURAL BLUES

Mavis Staples is puzzled that President Obama failed to invite her to his January inauguration. "It's a slap in the face," says the Chicago-based singer, who had played for JFK, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton. A veteran of the civil rights movement and a 2005 Lifetime Achievement Grammy recipient, Staples says she would have rallied the inauguration crowd with the iconic anthem of hope, "I'll Take You There." The solo artist will perform the song — first recorded in 1972 with her family, the Staple Singers — when she headlines the first ever Vermont Blues Festival at Mount Snow.

Founded by her father, the late guitarist "Pops" Staples, the Staple Singers began as a gospel group but were embraced by the early 1960s folk revival for their "freedom songs." Their star rose quickly, but tours through the Deep South could be tense. In 1965 a white Memphis gas station attendant called Mavis a derogatory name. "Pops clocked him," she recalls with a chuckle. A brawl ensued. Later, in neighboring Arkansas, the entertainers were stopped by "cops with shotguns and dogs," Mavis says. "I thought they would take us into the woods." Instead, at the local police station, their Memphis brouhaha was sorted out; an apologetic officer even acknowledged seeing them on the Johnny Carson show.

Certain churches once reviled "I'll Take You There," branding it "the devil's music," Mavis explains. "I told them, 'All music is God's music.'"

- **WHAT:** Vermont Blues Festival, also starring Shemekia Copeland, Elvin Bishop and Guy Davis, among others
- **WHEN:** Aug. 21-23
- **WHERE:** Mount Snow, West Dover
- **COST:** \$70 (three-day ticket) and less
- **INFORMATION:** (800) 498-0479 or www.mountsnow.com

— Susan Green

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ARTS LIFE GLASS ACT

For more than a century his name has been in the lexicon to describe anything of superior quality, but during the Gilded Age, Louis Comfort Tiffany was something of a rebel with a cause: the decorative arts.

In the late 1800s, he declined to remain in his father's prosperous Manhattan jewelry business, instead developing an innovative process for the creation of stained glass. Europeans traditionally painted on clear glass; Tiffany helped invent an opalescence that revolutionized the craft.

This summer, many of his lamps, ceramics and glass vessels can be seen at the Shelburne Museum, founded in 1947 by Electra Havemeyer Webb. Tiffany had a direct connection to Webb, having designed her parents' three-story mansion on Fifth Avenue. As part of the exhibit, an entire suite of his original furniture from the Webbs' luxurious New York home will also be on display.

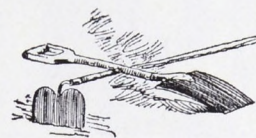
Tiffany (1848–1933) surely fit the definition of a Renaissance man, creating textiles, pottery and even books. "He really was a genius," says Lawrence Ribbecke, a Burlington architectural stained-glass craftsman who is frequently hired to repair authentic Tiffany windows throughout Vermont. "He understood light and color the way a painter would. He was a little bit of an artist and a little bit of a magician."

- **WHAT:** "Louis Comfort Tiffany: Nature by Design"
- **WHEN:** June 20–Oct. 25
- **WHERE:** Shelburne Museum
- **COST:** \$10–\$20; Vermont residents receive discounts
- **INFORMATION:** (802) 985-3346 or www.shelburnemuseum.org

— Susan Green



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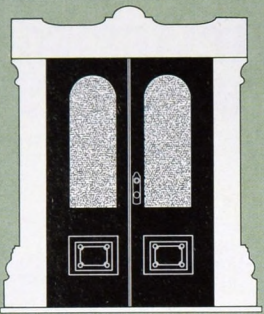


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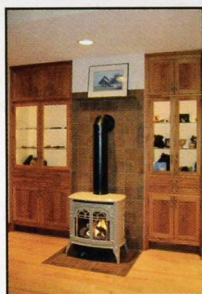
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ARTS LIFE COUNTRY ROADS

In depicting Vermont, painter Luigi Lucioni gave credit to his muse. "For me, nature is the greatest artist that ever lived," he said in a July 1971 interview for the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art.

Evidence of this inspiration can be found through August at the Middlebury College Museum of Art in "Pastoral Vermont: The Paintings and Etchings of Luigi Lucioni," an exhibit of landscapes, portraits and still lifes.

The European immigrant divided his time between a New York City apartment and, after 1930, a Manchester Depot house. The move north was suggested by Electra Havemeyer Webb, his principal benefactress and later founder of the Shelburne Museum.

"I fell madly in love with the state because it reminded me a little bit of northern Italy, where I was born," Lucioni (1900-1988) told the Smithsonian interviewer.

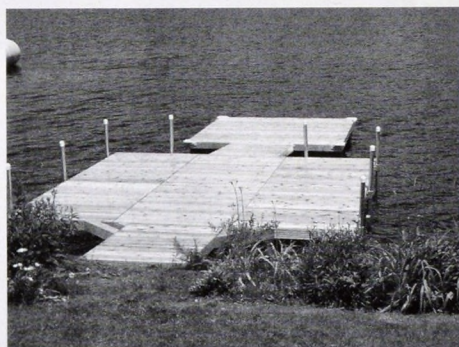
"Luigi lived here with his two sisters," explains Mark Reinfurt, owner of Manchester Village's Equinox Antiques. "I met him near the end of his life. He was very prolific, disciplined, quiet and charming."

Lucioni's work became a passion for Reinfurt, who has collected about 40 pieces. He recalls the Italian artist driving along country roads "in his old woody station wagon," looking for images worthy of capturing on canvas. No wonder Life magazine once dubbed him Vermont's "painter laureate."

- **WHAT:** "Pastoral Vermont: The Paintings and Etchings of Luigi Lucioni"
- **WHEN:** May-August
- **WHERE:** Middlebury College Museum of Art
- **COST:** Free
- **INFORMATION:** (802) 443-5007 or <http://museum.middlebury.edu>

— Susan Green

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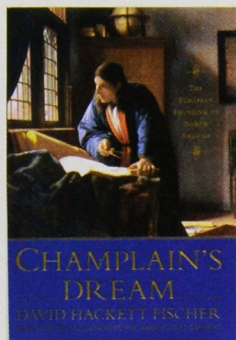
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SHELF LIFE

EXPLORING AN ADVENTURER

As Vermonters celebrate the rich heritage and stunning beauty of Lake Champlain, there may be no better companion reading this summer than "Champlain's Dream," a biography of French adventurer Samuel de Champlain by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David Hackett Fischer.

"Champlain's Dream," named by The New York Times as one of the "100 Notable Books" of 2008, is also the biography of a place and an idea. The place was New France in the 17th century — a huge area that once included the Champlain Valley. And the idea, the "dream," was the radical notion for the time that Native Americans were human beings worthy of respect, and that the European newcomers could live in peace with them.

Champlain realized this dream imperfectly — his entry to the lake included a deadly armed clash, and he was not above backing one tribe against another in war if it suited his purposes — though he was far more respectful of Native Americans than most other explorers of his day.

Champlain is credited by Fischer with establishing and later salvaging New France. Yet though he traveled far and accomplished much, there was only one location he chose to name after himself — the magnificent lake that today separates Vermont from New York state: Lake Champlain.

• "CHAMPLAIN'S DREAM"

BY DAVID HACKETT FISCHER,
848 pages, hardcover, \$40, Simon & Schuster, New York

— Tom Slayton

Full Throttle

at Shelburne Museum

May 17 - October 25



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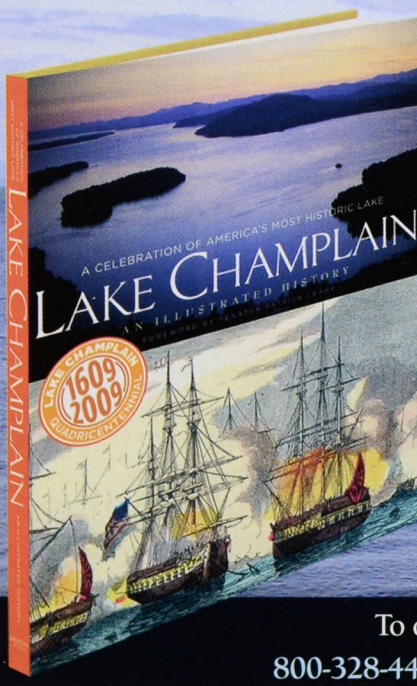
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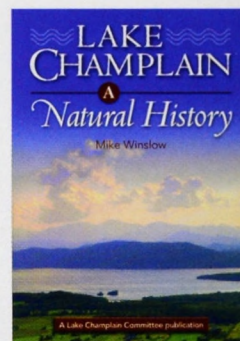
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Photography Courtesy of George Ruhe



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SHELF LIFE

POPULAR SCIENCE

This accessible collection of natural history essays explores the complexities of the huge Lake Champlain ecosystem without being abstruse or jargon-ridden. Ranging from the prehistoric origin of the lake to its contemporary problems (largely man-made), author Mike Winslow steers a middle course between popular and academic science, and generally succeeds.

The book answers dozens of puzzling and interesting questions: What causes the heavy white foam that accumulates offshore on windy days? What effects are zebra mussels, an invasive species, causing on the lake? Why has it proven so difficult to re-establish lake trout in Champlain? And so on.

The book's more than 50 short essays are consistently clear and interesting. For the most part, Winslow maintains a scientist's detachment when addressing the future of the lake, but, in a final essay, he asks philosophically what the value is of a child's happiness at catching a fish, the beauty of a lakeside marshy morning filled with fresh winds and wren calls, the comradeship of a lakeside bonfire in the evening.

We can only hope that "Lake Champlain: A Natural History" will help us — the humans who interact with this great ecosystem — make better and more informed decisions about its future.

• "LAKE CHAMPLAIN: A NATURAL HISTORY"

BY MIKE WINSLOW, 160 pages, paperbound, \$18.95, co-published by the Lake Champlain Committee, Burlington, and Images From the Past, Bennington

— Tom Slayton



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THE WATER IN BETWEEN

A Photographic Celebration of Lake Champlain



SHELF LIFE

WATERSHED EVENT

Lake Champlain and the Champlain Valley, one of the most spectacularly beautiful regions in the Northeast, have a distinctive sense of place that is unlikely to be confused with anywhere else.

This book, a collection of photographs of the lake and its encompassing watershed, aims to evoke that sense of place visually. To that end, editor-publisher Jared Gange has collected photos that show the lake in many modes and seasons — stormy, whitecapped days as well as sunny, placid days, winter's iceboats and ice-fishing shanties as well as summer's sailboats and kayaks.

"The Water In Between" is beautiful, to be sure, a fun book to look at. But there's a subtle intelligence included in its pages. For Gange has designed the book not simply around the lake or the valley, but around the watershed. There are photographs from the top of some of the tallest Adirondack peaks as well as from Lake of the Clouds, high on the north flank of Mount Mansfield.

Also included is a selection of photographs of the notable buildings and human activities of the region: the staunch, red-brick edifices that define the University of Vermont architecturally, Fort Ticonderoga, Shelburne Farms, the spires of Rutland, and several of the bridges that span the lake's narrow places.

And so what we have is a deft blend of the ecological and the human in an elegantly designed book. The beauty of Lake Champlain has seldom been so well or completely depicted.

• "THE WATER IN BETWEEN"

EDITED BY JARED GANGE, 132 pages, hardcover, \$29.95, Huntington Graphics, Burlington

— Tom Slayton

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- Good for the soul: "I just love being in the woods. I love the freedom of it," says veteran runner Dot Helling of Montpelier. "It's really interesting, kind of like a puzzle. ... I can run with my dog and she's free, and the birds are singing. There's no fumes, no noise."
- Easier on the body: Softer terrain means less impact than pavement.

CHECKLIST

- Trail running shoes. They're rugged to protect your feet, and the tread is knobby for traction.
- Layered clothing made of durable fabrics.
- Water and a comfy way to carry it.
- Though not a "must," poles can be useful on tricky terrain.

Photographed by BRIAN MOHR

- If you're going alone, have a means of taking care of an injury or calling for help.

ON THE TRAIL

- To start, pick a short loop. Figure it will take you twice as long as it would to complete the same length on a road run.
- "Go slow and easy," says Bill Salmon, director of Grafton Ponds Outdoor Center. "Keep your pace where you can carry on a conversation so you can build your aerobic capacity."
- Mix up walking and jogging to get a feel for the terrain.

WHERE TO RUN

Look for trails in nearby parks. Many mountain bike loops and cross-country ski trails are also available to runners. Some popular spots include Honey Hollow, Huntington; Grafton Ponds, Grafton; North Branch and Hubbard parks, Montpelier; and Pine Hill Park, Rutland. 🍂

— Sky Barsch





Retro Central

Red Sky Trading brings you back in time, but the food's better





By MICHELLE EDELBAUM
 Photographed by DARIA BISHOP

RED SKY TRADING IS THE KIND OF place where a sign encourages visitors to “please help yourself” and “ring the bell on the barn door loudly for assistance.” Payment is on the honor system — by leaving money in a canister and recording purchases in a little book on the front counter.

It would be easy to miss the shop altogether — and its vibrant mix of retro treasures, antiques and gourmet food-stuffs that are tucked into an old red barn off Glover’s main drag — but for the large sign out front that announces fresh homemade doughnuts.

The hand-cut, cinnamon-sugar-coated rounds, an old family recipe, are definitely worth stopping for (they’re only available on weekends), but they’re just a gateway to the cool stuff hiding inside.

Although owners Cheri Safford, 50, and her husband Doug, 63, a teacher, don’t man the counter, you get the sense that they’re around, hanging out in the 170-year-old farmhouse they’ve renovated next to the shop or puttering around their yard with their three cocker spaniels.

The New York-born-and-raised couple (he in Yonkers, she in Rochester) moved to Glover from the Adirondacks 10 years ago. They’d already had wide-ranging careers — Doug ran his family’s Village Inn in Long Lake, Cheri

owned a graphic design business in Rochester producing custom gift wrap, and they’d worked together as chefs at an Adirondack lodge.

Two years after moving to Vermont, Cheri and Doug started Red Sky Trading under an umbrella on their front lawn. They love food and were already jarring and canning jams, salsas and more. Doug thought they could share their passion with people who would appreciate the homemade foods and Cheri’s craftiness, and see if the business would work.

“We started out with a tiny roadside stand, with a cooler and a little counter and pickles and salsa and jams,” Cheri says. “But we decided it was a little too dusty. So we kicked out the spiders from the barn and took that over.”

Greater space allowed the couple to not only sell more desserts — decadent homemade cream puffs with chocolate ganache, lemon squares and carrot cake — but



If you go

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Maple Manor Bed & Breakfast, West Glover
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Rodgers Country Inn, West Glover
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Country charm abounds at this 1840s farmhouse on 350 acres. Lodging options include guest-rooms at the bed and breakfast and two private cabins.

Lakeside Haven, Glover
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Pet-friendly bed and breakfast on Shadow Lake features guest rooms with satellite television and an outdoor Jacuzzi in a lit gazebo.

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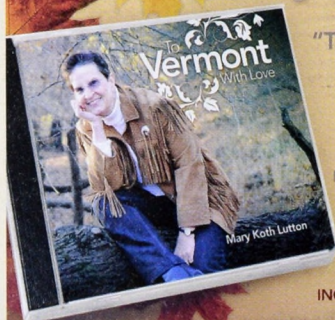
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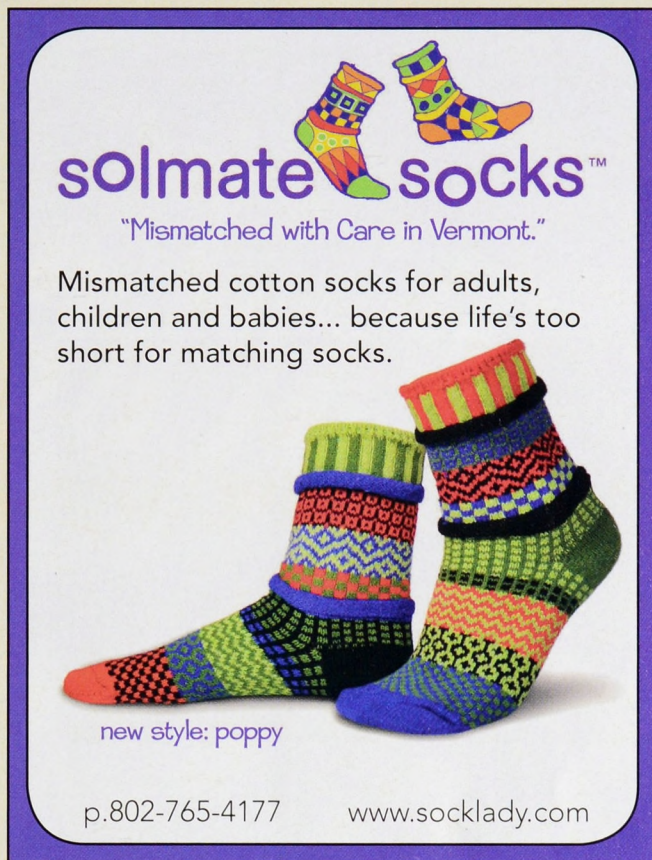
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Getaways

also more of their award-winning jellies, chutneys, pickled vegetables and salsas, as well as garden art and produce from their garden and local organic farms. And the doughnuts? "Those really took off, people really love those ... It's a family recipe," says Cheri. "It was one of my grandfather's favorite things to eat, right out of the bag, warm."

They also added items that evoke childhood nostalgia for many customers — vintage home décor, antiques and kitchenware from the 1940s, '50s and '60s.

"As we gained more space," says Cheri, "we started to turn into serial collectors."

The small shop is packed from floor to ceiling with one-of-a-kind finds that the couple picks up at flea markets and auctions on their travels. Cheri's signs, labels and tags — little pieces of fine artwork featuring drawings of food and people, jokes and cool lettering — adorn the jars, knickknacks and shelves and lend a cheery personality to the store.

The small shop is
 packed from floor to
 ceiling with
 one-of-a-kind finds



Furniture and housewares from the store overflow onto the grassy lawn and brightly painted Adirondack chairs (perfect for lounging with coffee and a doughnut) line the tranquil Barton River.

Phinneus Sonin, owner of Junk-tiques in Burlington, regularly visits Glover in the summer to go to shows at Bread and Puppet Theater.

"I was driving around and I stumbled upon them. That's why it was so

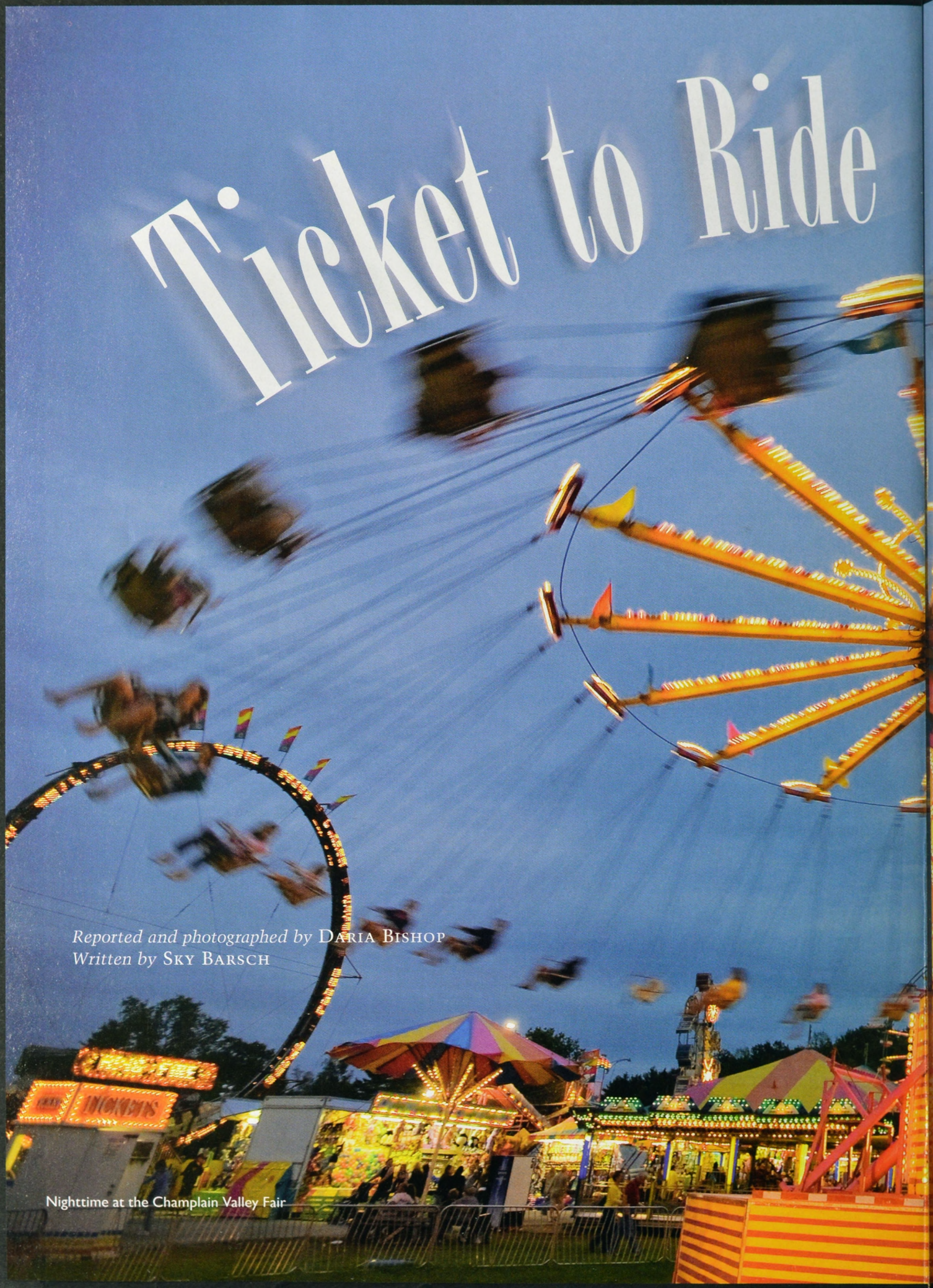
exciting. They have the best doughnuts in the world, and when I saw it was an honor system for payment, that made me fall in love with the place — and that was before I even ate a doughnut," says Sonin, who's confessed to driving to the store from Burlington just for the sweets.

"Their collection of vintage kitchenware is all crammed into such a small place, it has the feeling of stepping into this abundant past where products were just flowing off the shelves," says Sonin. "They have a serious collection. I think that stuff is harder to find, especially now."

The Saffords' collectibles speak to Sonin's aesthetic and their honor system appeals to his values. It's the kind of trusting, open atmosphere he'd love to have at his shop — but it's different in the city, he says.

"Everybody I've brought there has agreed it's a truly unique experience going on there — tasty and special," Sonin says. "A place with such cool stuff and gourmet foods — it's just so quintessential Vermont." 🍁

Ticket to Ride



*Reported and photographed by DARIA BISHOP
Written by SKY BARSCH*

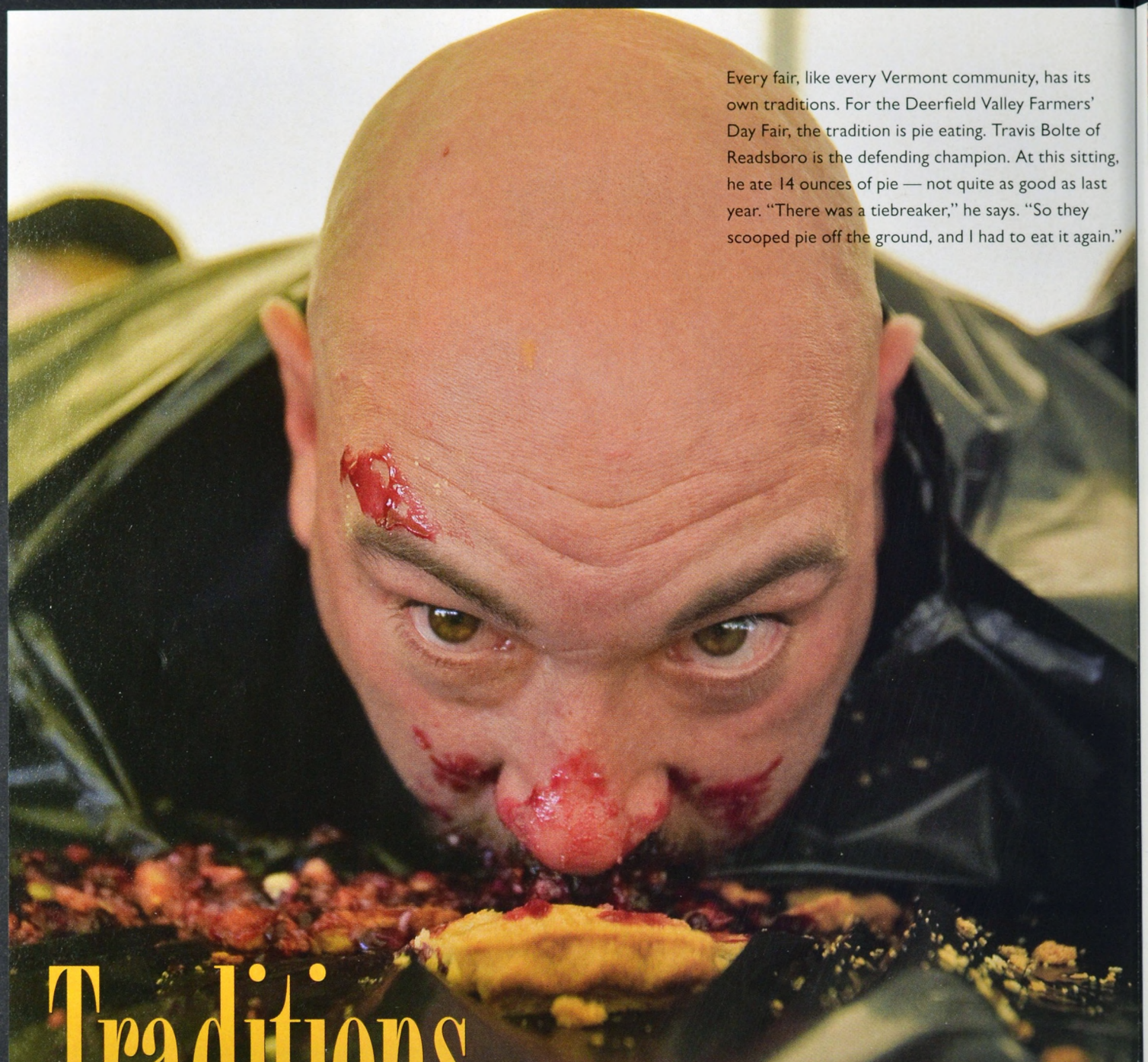
Nighttime at the Champlain Valley Fair

Each summer, the fair
comes to Vermont.
And Vermont goes to the fair.

Like magic, at fairgrounds across Vermont, empty fields and battened-down outbuildings jump to life once a year when the fair comes to town. Almost every county in the state hosts an agricultural fair with whirring rides, fast-talking game barkers and greasy food. Here, rich and poor, rural and citified, young and old mingle in a way that is rarely seen elsewhere.

Photographer Daria Bishop spent last summer going to the state's many fairs to capture this longtime Vermont tradition. She found compelling behind-the-scenes tales, memorable faces and stories of love.

The gates are open
... Come to the fair!

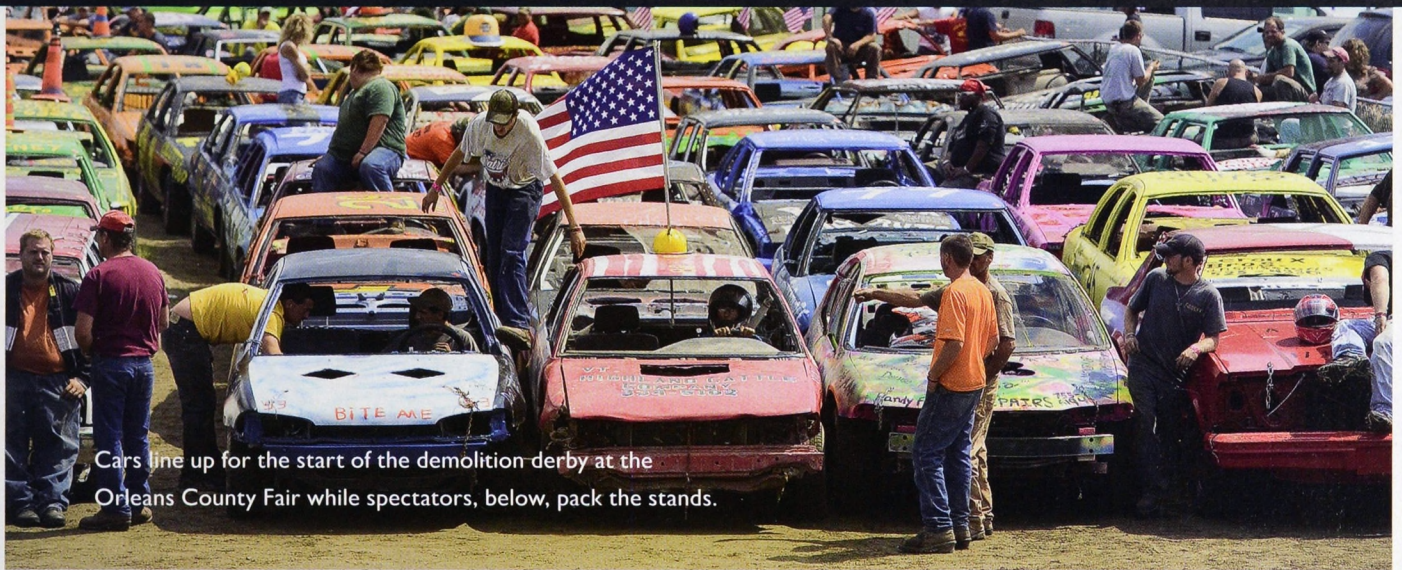


Every fair, like every Vermont community, has its own traditions. For the Deerfield Valley Farmers' Day Fair, the tradition is pie eating. Travis Bolte of Readsboro is the defending champion. At this sitting, he ate 14 ounces of pie — not quite as good as last year. "There was a tiebreaker," he says. "So they scooped pie off the ground, and I had to eat it again."

Traditions

Arm wrestling sets the Addison County Fair & Field Days apart. Here, Loganne LaPrise, 5, shows off her third-place medal.





Cars line up for the start of the demolition derby at the Orleans County Fair while spectators, below, pack the stands.

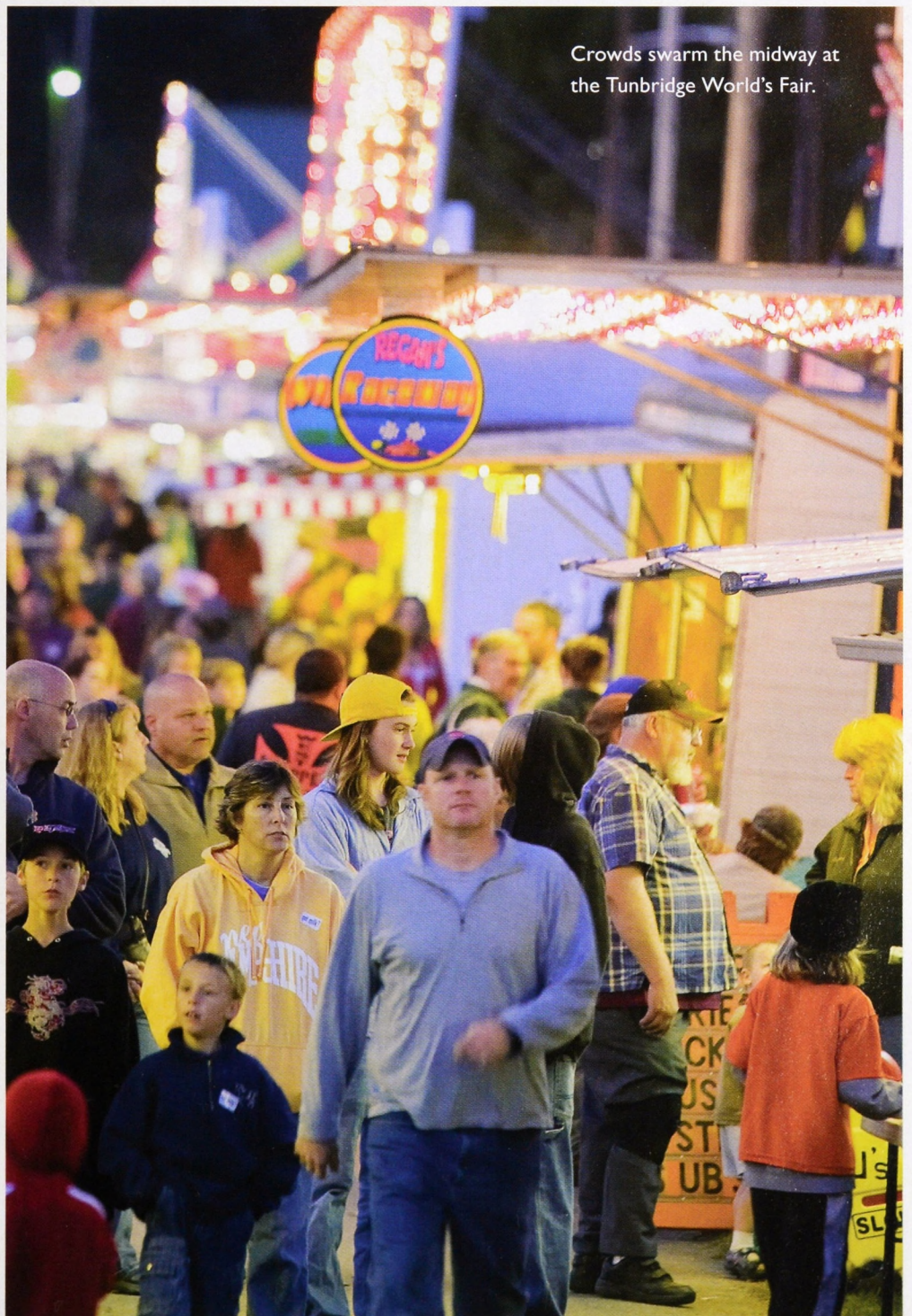


Although the footwear may vary, the rides bring the same thrill year after year. Caleb Curtis of Williston, Ashley Stoudt of Waterville and Jimmy Hartwell of Tampa, Florida, board the Tango ride at the Champlain Valley Fair.



Something wicked this way comes: A stiff wind and foreboding skies do nothing to dissuade riders from hopping aboard a pink dragon at the Addison County Fair. Below: The Albany Marine Corps Band in formation at the Champlain Valley Fair.





Crowds swarm the midway at the Tunbridge World's Fair.



Behind the Scenes

Above, left: Ashlynn Foster, 8, of Middlebury scrubs Justine, a Milking Shorthorn calf at the Addison County Fair. Meanwhile, 2-year-old Haylie Raymond naps in a feeding trough while her parents sell farm and garden supplies. "It's been her bed for the last week," says her mother Amy.



Melina Myers, 9, of Ferrisburgh grooms Rachel, a 14-year-old Shire horse, at the Addison County Fair.



John and Judy Baker own Super Chef's BBQ, an Addison County Fair staple. "We've got a large and very loyal following here," says John. "That's why it's our favorite fair. We call them barbecue groupies. When it's a guy, we call him a repeat offender." The couple has no permanent address. We live "wherever we park the house," says John.



Above: Nobody says "bored" better than teenagers. Friends from Lake Region Union High School hang out and text-message at the Orleans County Fair. Some of them work at the fair and most of them visit the fair every day. "It's better than anything else to do," says one. Right: Did Edward Brown of Burlington win his giant spider playing ring toss or throwing darts at the Champlain Valley Fair? Neither. Brown bought the spider in Florida and brings it to the fair with him. "I like to get attention," he says.



Pure joy: Lily-Ann Morgan, 4, of Derby lets loose on the boat ride at the Orleans County Fair.



Faces

Right: Addison County Fair's Bobo the clown, aka, Harrie DeMers of New Haven. Far right: Fairgoers react to the Steve Bayner Hypnotist Show at the Champlain Valley Fair.



Alexandra Williams, 4, takes showing cattle very seriously, heeding the advice of PeeWee Dairy Showmanship judge Dr. Jim Gilmore at the Addison County Fair.



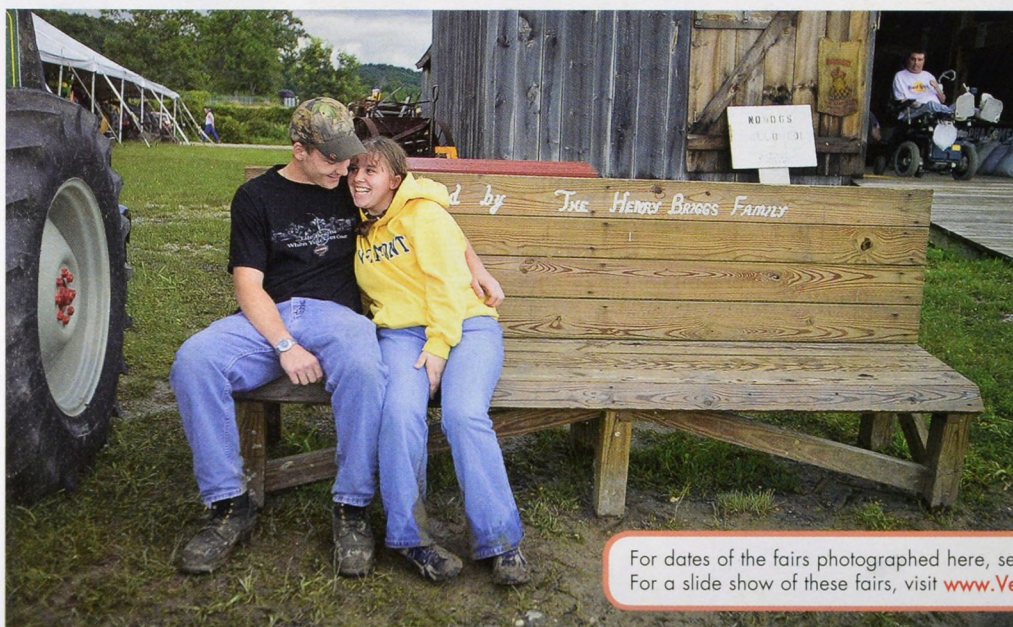
Above: Amanda Morse, 14, visits with her Clydesdales at the Addison County Fair; Corazon Johnston, 8, admires her new look at the Champlain Valley Fair.





Sarah Patten of Hinesburg receives a kiss from her boyfriend Daniel Brooks on the YoYo at the Champlain Valley Fair. The couple met at Champlain Valley Union High School and have been dating for nine months.

Love



Melissa Prouty, 18, of Tinmouth, snuggles up to boyfriend Justin Withington, 18, of West Rutland, at the Addison County Fair. "I met him a year or so ago at a class," says Prouty. "I thought he was cute, but he was shy. Then we met up again a couple months ago, and it just stuck."

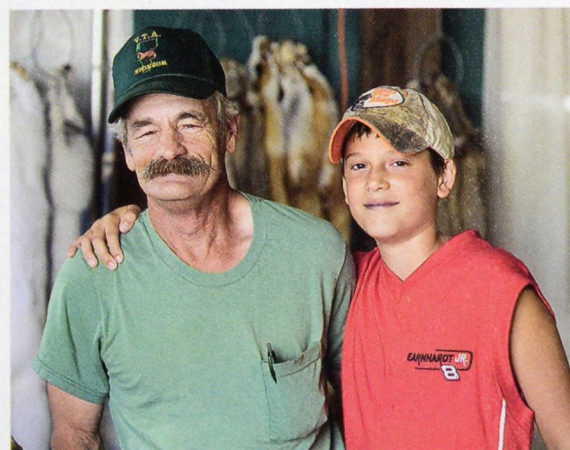
For dates of the fairs photographed here, see page 2.
For a slide show of these fairs, visit www.VermontLife.com.

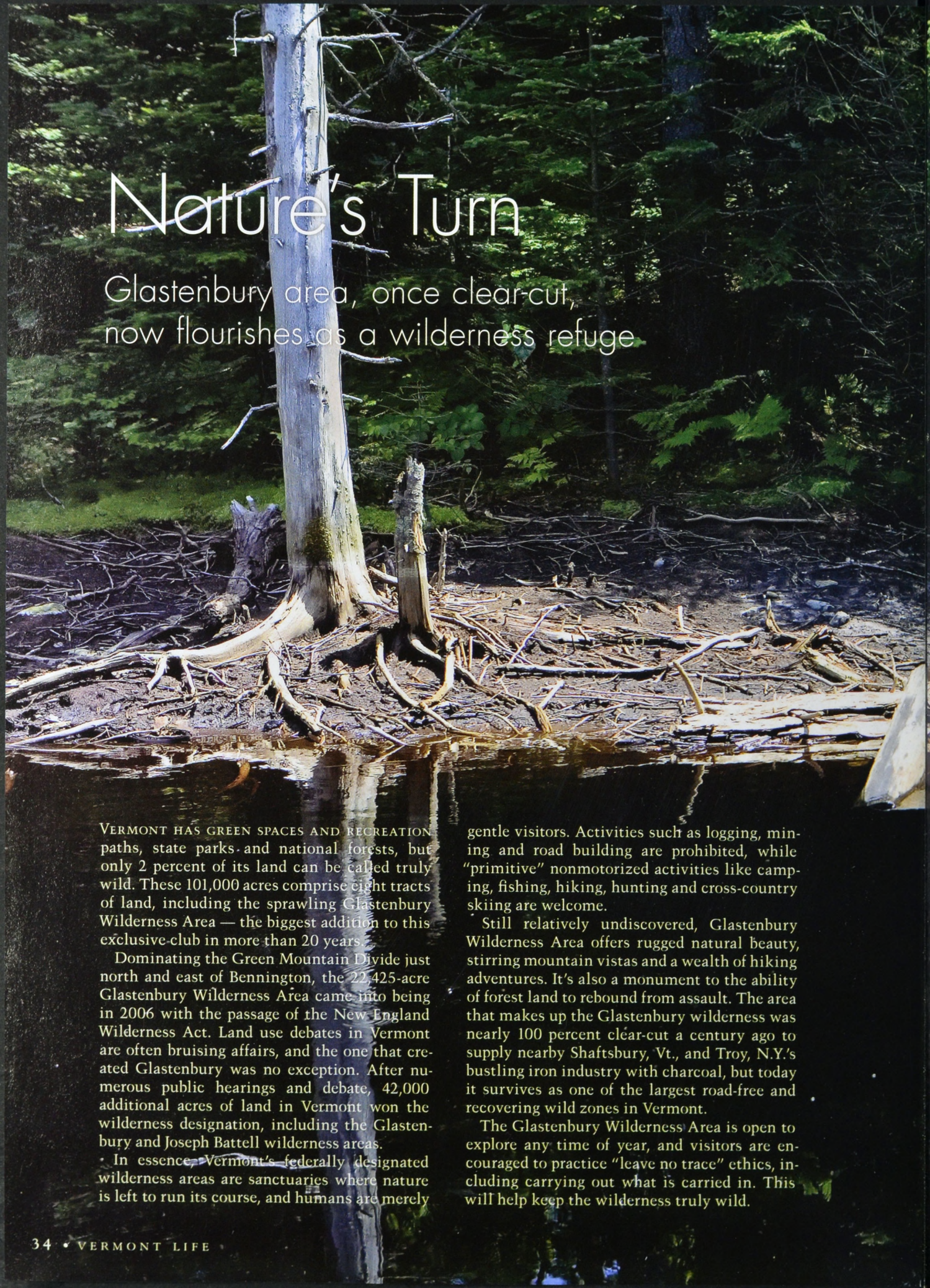


Every year, family matriarch Lynn Dupuis honors her son Micah by participating in the Jack and Jill sawing competition at the Deerfield Valley Farmers' Day Fair. Micah passed away when he was 19 in a logging accident. Here, she and her son Aaron compete. The two took first place.

Top, left: Alexis Ouellette, 11, of Weybridge hugs her Jersey calf, Lila, at the Addison County Fair. Her grandfather owns Lila, "but I've been taking care of her this week, feeding her and washing her and loving her lots," says Alexis. Top, center: Ashlynn Foster, 8, walks hand-in-hand with her brother Colin, 4, after washing their two Milking Shorthorns at the Addison County Fair. Top, right: a couple stands watching outside the old-fashioned photo studio at the Champlain Valley Fair.

Right: Fair time gives Barry Forbes, a director of the Vermont Trappers Association, a chance to spend time with his grandson Cameron. This year, the two celebrated Cameron's 11th birthday while at the Addison County Fair. Pelts can be seen hanging in the background.





Nature's Turn

Glastenbury area, once clear-cut, now flourishes as a wilderness refuge

VERMONT HAS GREEN SPACES AND RECREATION paths, state parks and national forests, but only 2 percent of its land can be called truly wild. These 101,000 acres comprise eight tracts of land, including the sprawling Glastenbury Wilderness Area — the biggest addition to this exclusive club in more than 20 years.

Dominating the Green Mountain Divide just north and east of Bennington, the 22,425-acre Glastenbury Wilderness Area came into being in 2006 with the passage of the New England Wilderness Act. Land use debates in Vermont are often bruising affairs, and the one that created Glastenbury was no exception. After numerous public hearings and debate, 42,000 additional acres of land in Vermont won the wilderness designation, including the Glastenbury and Joseph Battell wilderness areas.

In essence, Vermont's federally designated wilderness areas are sanctuaries where nature is left to run its course, and humans are merely

gentle visitors. Activities such as logging, mining and road building are prohibited, while "primitive" nonmotorized activities like camping, fishing, hiking, hunting and cross-country skiing are welcome.

Still relatively undiscovered, Glastenbury Wilderness Area offers rugged natural beauty, stirring mountain vistas and a wealth of hiking adventures. It's also a monument to the ability of forest land to rebound from assault. The area that makes up the Glastenbury wilderness was nearly 100 percent clear-cut a century ago to supply nearby Shaftsbury, Vt., and Troy, N.Y.'s bustling iron industry with charcoal, but today it survives as one of the largest road-free and recovering wild zones in Vermont.

The Glastenbury Wilderness Area is open to explore any time of year, and visitors are encouraged to practice "leave no trace" ethics, including carrying out what is carried in. This will help keep the wilderness truly wild.



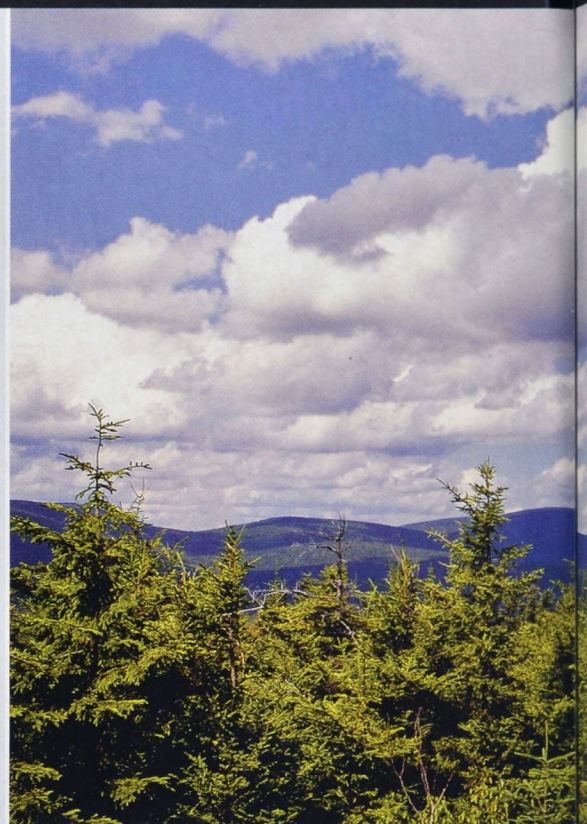
Story and photographs by BRIAN MOHR



Wilderness Club

Only eight tracts in Vermont have been federally designated as wilderness areas:

- Breadloaf: 25,237 acres
- Glastenbury: 22,425 acres
- Lye Brook: 17,841 acres
- Joseph Battell: 12,333 acres
- Peru Peak: 7,672 acres
- Big Branch: 6,767 acres
- George D. Aiken: 5,060 acres
- Bristol Cliffs: 3,738 acres



HIKES IN GLASTENBURY

Jeff Pelton with the Green Mountain National Forest shared these hikes. Whether you're looking to spend a few hours or a few days on the trail, these suggestions should cover it. You can find more information through the Forest Service by visiting www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/. We recommend taking a map and more detailed information, available through the Forest Service, and of course, plenty of supplies including extra clothing and lots of water.

Quick

Bald Mountain Trail from Woodford

Distance: 4 miles round trip

Elevation gain: 1,580 feet

Time: 3 hours

THE HIKE: The trail uses an old woods road, which occasionally crosses some other old roads, so pay close attention to the blue blazes. At .3 miles, turn left onto the footpath at the Forest Service boundary, which is marked with red paint. At 1.6 miles, the trail meets a spur trail, which leads to a seasonal spring at Bear Wallow (water is not tested for drinking). Continuing on the main trail, reach the West Ridge Trail at 1.9 miles. Reach the summit in one-tenth of a mile.

GETTING THERE: From Bennington, travel east on Route 9 for 4 miles

and turn north on Harbor Road. At .8 miles, at a concrete water tank, turn left off the road into an open area. The trailhead is at the edge of the woods. From the east, take Route 9 west for 1.2 miles past the Appalachian/Long Trail crossing to Harbor Road. Follow directions from Harbor Road above.

Full Day

Bald Mountain Trail from Bennington

Distance: 7.2 miles round trip

Elevation gain: 2,142 feet

Time: 6 hours

THE HIKE: The trail begins where a power line crosses North Branch Street Extension. Follow the blue blazes along an old woods road for almost a mile, crossing and following brooks, ascending switchbacks and traversing

old rockslides. The trail reaches White Rocks at 2.6 miles. Continue on to the junction with West Ridge Trail (3.5 miles). The summit is just ahead.

GETTING THERE: From Route 7, take Kocher Drive, just north of downtown Bennington, which turns into North Branch Street Extension. Follow to the power line crossing, where there is limited parking. From Route 9, turn north on North Branch Street, then turn right over a bridge onto North Branch Street Extension and follow the directions above.

Backpacking

Glastenbury/West Ridge Loop

Distance: 21.8-mile loop

Elevation gain: 2,450 feet

Time: 13–15 hours

THE HIKE: Follow the Appalachian/Long Trail, which is marked with white blazes. At 1.7 miles, a spur trail leads to the Melville Nauheim Shelter. Continue on the main trail, passing a wet area, and cross a bridge across Hell Hollow Brook (3.1 miles). Reach a lookout at 4.3 miles and the summit of Little Pond Mountain at 5.5 miles. Follow the trail along the ridgeline to Glastenbury Mountain



at 7.4 miles, followed by a descent and then a steep climb to Goddard Shelter at 9.8 miles. You can set up camp here for the night in this lean-to. A short hike of .3 miles leads to the fire tower on Glas-tenbury summit, affording a 360-de-gree view of the Green, Taconic and Berkshire mountains. The next morn-ing, take the West Ridge Trail, marked with blue blazes (begins just west of the shelter). At 12.3 miles, the trail reaches a woods road. Continue to Bald Mountain summit at 17.5 miles. Follow West Ridge Trail down to the junction of Bald Mountain Trail. Bear left over the steep, rocky descent, passing a trail sign and a spur that leads to the Bear Wallow spring (reminder: water is not tested for drinking). Continue on, fol-lowing woods roads. At the National Forest boundary (blazed red), go right on the roadway. At the Bald Mountain trailhead parking area, go right to reach route 9 (20.3 miles). Turn left and follow Route 9 for a mile to the Appalachian/ Long Trail parking lot.

GETTING THERE: From Route 7 in Bennington, the trailhead is 5.2 miles east on Route 9. From Route 9 in Wil-mington, the trailhead is 15.8 miles west on Route 9. 🗺️

• Source: Green Mountain National Forest

For a journal from Brian Mohr's three-day Glastenbury Wilderness Area hike, visit www.VermontLife.com.





Natural Ingredients

Picnic spots and sunset views add to the flavor at Pizza on Earth in Charlotte

By MARIALISA CALTA

Photographed by JIM WESTPHALEN

James "Jay" Vogler, 54, came to pizza-making the long way round. In college, he started out as an agriculture major ("I wanted to be a dairy farmer ... that lasted one semester," he says ruefully) before switching to art. He then worked as an art installer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; and growing enamored of cooking during vacations in France, he did a stint as an apprentice for renowned chef Roger Vergé in his Michelin three-star restaurant, Moulin des Mougins, near Cannes. Along the way, Vogler married Marcia Pedersen, an apparel designer.

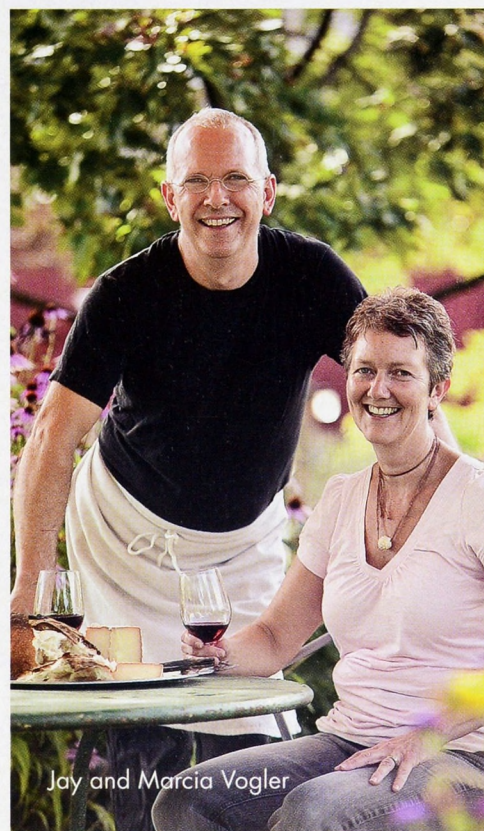
Weary of the city, the Voglers began searching for property in northern New England. "We wanted to run a restaurant, or a toy store, a produce farm," says Jay. "We were all over the map." Vermont had a strong pull; although he was raised in New Jersey, Jay has family ties here, including a camp on Sunset Lake in Orwell, relatives on a dairy farm, and distant kinship to Chester Arthur and Calvin

Coolidge. In 1991, the Voglers relocated to Charlotte, in a farmhouse set on 64 acres near Lake Champlain. They wanted to farm and raise a family: son Remy is now 18, and Jordan is 16.

The Voglers supplied local restaurants and markets with salad greens and tomatoes. Somewhere along the way, Jay spied a newspaper ad for a wood-fired oven priced at \$500 and bought it "more or less on a whim." It sat in the shed, in pieces, for several years.

The couple began leasing their land to now-neighbors Dave Quickel and Emma Burrous, who farm it as part of Stony Loam Farm, a Community Supported Agriculture enterprise. In 1999, the Voglers put the oven together and fired it up: Pizza on Earth was born. Jay says he made about 10 pizzas on "a good night," but he now cranks out as many as 125 of the crisp-crust artisan pizzas each night the eatery is open for business (see box). A member of the Vermont Fresh Network, Jay uses local seasonal products whenever possible, mainly from their own farm.

(continued on page 56)



Jay and Marcia Vogler

What: Pizza on Earth, offering wood-fired pizza, freshly baked breads, pastries and homemade gelato. Takeout only, but outdoor eating in season with views overlooking Lake Champlain.

Where: In a small, cheerful hut on the Vogler farmland at 1510 Hinesburg Road, Charlotte.

When: Hours vary; open one day a week in winter and more often in summer. Go to www.pizzaonearth.com or call (802) 425-2152 for details.

Shore Leave

No boat? No problem.

You can still get out on the water and enjoy Lake Champlain.

What better way to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's exploration of the lake than to enjoy the same waters he sailed? Even if you don't own a boat, there are plenty of no-hassle ways — from active adventures to relaxing cruises and sails — to feel the wind in your hair, lake water on your toes and sun on your face this summer.



By MICHELLE EDELBAUM

Smooth Sailing



CAPTAIN GLEN FINDHOLT, OWNER OF **Whistling Man Schooner** (598-6504, www.whistlingman.com) brushed up on his history in honor of this summer's Lake Champlain Quadricentennial celebrations. Setting sail from the Burlington waterfront, he shares stories of explorer Samuel de Champlain with up to 17 guests on private charters and up to 12 on public, two-hour guided tours (\$35) aboard the 43-foot Friendship Sloop. Findholt tailors the route to passengers' interests — if geology is tops, he'll steer toward the thrust fault on the north side of Lone Rock Point, while for lighthouse lovers he'll sail to the historic cast-iron lighthouse on Juniper Island.

The nonprofit **Community Sailing Center** (864-2499, www.communitysailingcenter.org) offers affordable sailboat, canoe and kayak rentals (\$15 and up) at the Burlington waterfront, as well as camps, instruction and environmental education. The center has more than 50 sailboats in two general types — two-person, 14-foot dinghies (from \$25) and six-person, 23-foot keelboats (from \$50). The helpful staff can suggest destinations within the center's sailing boundaries — from Red Rocks to the south to Rock Point to the north.

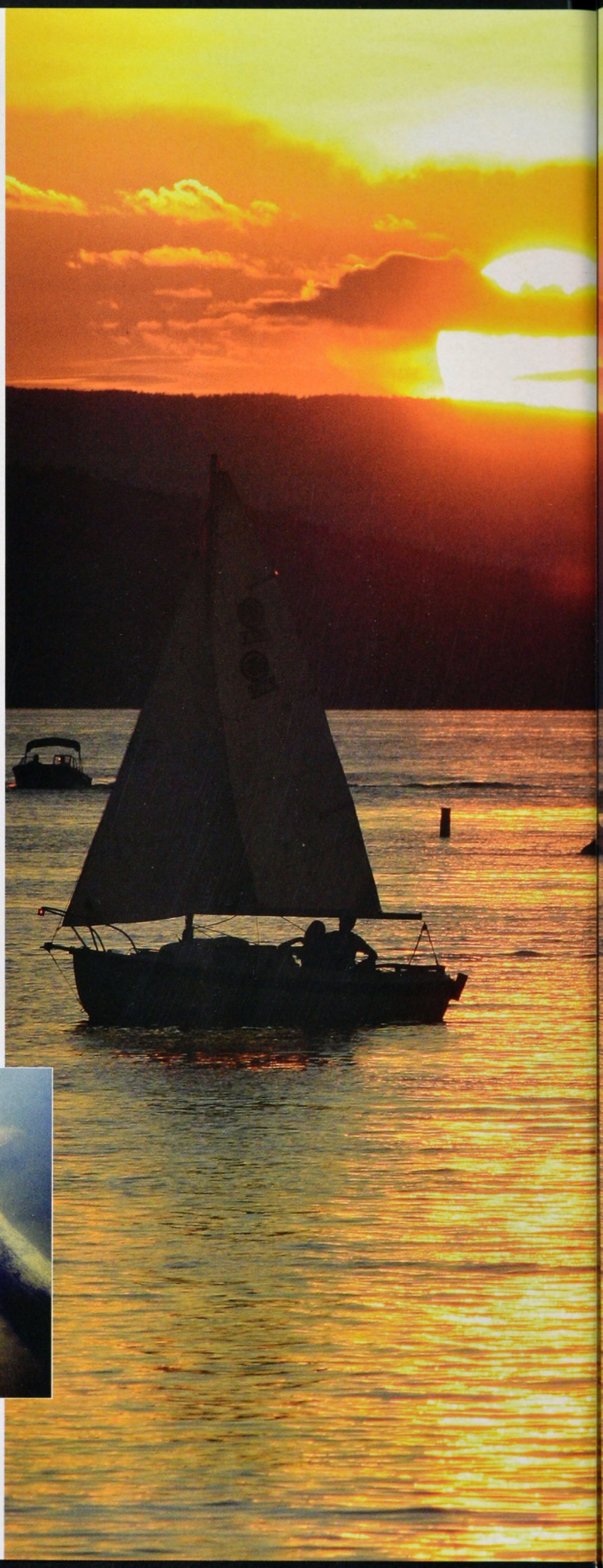
Shipwreck Explorations

EXPLORE SUNKEN SHIPWRECKS WITHOUT getting wet on Burlington's **Shipwrecktour.com** (578-6120) and the **Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's** shipwreck tours out of Vergennes (475-2022, www.lcmm.org). On these one-hour voyages you'll visit the site of one of more than 300 sunken ships in Lake Champlain. A remote-controlled camera is lowered into the water, sending pictures back to a monitor for viewing on deck. Shipwrecktour.com (\$18) often visits sites in Burlington Harbor, including the relatively intact "General Butler" schooner, which still contains big blocks of marble that were inside the cargo hold when the ship went down in 1876. The Museum's trips (\$22) often venture to the "Champlain II," a 19th-century steamer that ran aground.

Discover the shipwrecks of Lake Champlain up close when you scuba dive with **Waterfront Diving Center** in Burlington (865-2771, www.waterfront-diving.com). Dive shop owner Jonathan Eddy offers scuba diving classes for beginners to advanced divers and coordinates weekly charters (\$40 and up) to dive at the lake's protected shipwreck sites. Favorite wrecks — which Eddy says are in a remarkable state of preservation because they lie in fresh water — include a horse-powered ferry complete with paddle wheels, gears and a turnstile for the animals; and the 1862-built "O.J. Walker," an 88-foot "Hollywood wreck" with the wheel at the stern, the masts toppled but attached and brick cargo still stacked in pallets on the deck.



Lake Champlain Maritime Museum





Champlain Cruisin'

EASY RELAXATION AWAITS ON CRUISE TOURS FROM THE Burlington waterfront aboard the "**Spirit of Ethan Allen III**" (862-8300, www.soea.com) and "**Northern Lights**" (864-9669, www.lakechamplaincruises.com). Both ships take daily scenic narrated cruises and lunch, brunch and dinner tours. The "**Spirit of Ethan Allen III**" (\$14.99 and up) offers themed cruises such as murder mysteries, jazz, Italian night, Swingin' Big Band and Lobster on the Lake, while "**Northern Lights**" (\$12.99 and up) hosts sunset dinner cruises with live entertainment from local bands such as the soulful Jenni Johnson and Friends. With the Quadricentennial in mind, "**Spirit of Ethan Allen III**" is also offering a special lunch cruise followed by admission to the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center and a train ride between Burlington and Charlotte (\$47 and up).

The "**Moonlight Lady**" (863-3350, www.vermontdiscoverycruises.com), a 1920s-era ship, revives overnight cruising on Lake Champlain (\$299 and up) with private cabins and baths. The 65-foot boat makes stops for onshore excursions in Vermont, New York and Quebec villages and features onboard amenities such as observation decks and an open kitchen that allows interaction with the chef. Special excursions include a bird-watching expedition with Chip Darmsdadt of North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier and a watercolor cruise with Vergennes artist Sean Callahan. In honor of the Quadricentennial, the ship sails from Burlington to Montreal to Quebec (\$1,026 and up). Passengers can take one or more legs of the journey and make the trip between their chosen port and Vermont by bus.

Explore the northern section of Lake Champlain aboard **Driftwood Tours** (373-0022, www.northhero.com) located at the North Hero House. Captain Holly Poulin takes up to six guests on her pontoon boat for one- to eight-hour charters (\$25 and up) for fishing, swimming, private dinners and visits to state parks and beaches.

Paddle Power

ROWBOATS, KAYAKS AND CANOES comprise the rental fleet at **Auer Family Boathouse** (862-9840), a Burlington institution owned by the same family since 1928. With a sense of humor and a focus on families, Charlie Auer and his sister Christine Hebert run the business their parents started more than 80 years ago. The pair gives quick lessons before paddlers set out on the small boats (\$8 and up). Auer, an avid fisherman, also sells fishing gear and bait, and after-boating snacks to be enjoyed on the picnic tables and swing set.

Canoe Imports (651-8760, www.canoeimports.com) rents canoes and kayaks (\$20 and up) and offers classes from an outpost on Burlington's North Beach.

Kayak, canoe, rowboat, aluminum skiff and Boston Whaler rentals (from \$10) are also available from **Water-front Boat Rentals** at Burlington's Perkins Pier (864-4858, www.water-frontboatrentals.com).

Active Adventures

SEE THE LAKE FROM A DIFFERENT vantage point when you windsurf, kitesurf or kayak with **Stormboarding** (578-6120, www.stormboarding.com). Lessons come courtesy of owners Rachael Miller, Coast Guard captain and former competitive sailor, and husband James Lyne, also a Coast Guard captain, and an Olympic sailing coach and professional sailor, and their instructors. Two-part kitesurfing lessons teach safety and technique and offer on-water experience. Windsurfing lessons are taught north of Burlington, and adventure trips go to locations such as Willsboro Bay, where you can kayak or swim close to a waterfall and soaring vertical



Paul O. Boisvert

cliffs. Stormboarding also offers a motorboat-and-drop service that takes customers and kayaks to locations that would be time-consuming or difficult to reach by paddling from the Vermont shore. The kayaks are then dropped in the water for an outing in such locations as Four Brothers Islands, a protected bird sanctuary near Willsboro, N.Y.

For 16 years, mother and son Jane and Dovid Yagoda have taken paddlers on their **True North Kayak Tours** (860-1910, www.vermont-kayak.com) to places you can't reach in a large boat. In addition to lessons (\$85 and up), full-day tours and overnight trips (\$100 and up), they offer dedicated tours for women and seniors. Favorite spots include Shelburne Bay, Carry Bay in the Champlain Islands and Knight Island in North Hero for overnight camping.

Whether you want to watch wildlife at the mouths of rivers or explore the shoreline up close, **PaddleWays** in Burlington (238-0674, www.paddleways.com) offers custom kayaking tours to fit paddlers' interests (\$60 and up). Owner Kevin Rose, who helped establish the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail, also offers full- and half-day sailing charters (\$300 and up) aboard "Raven," the 34-foot sailboat he lives on seven months of the year.



Paul O. Boisvert



Dennis Curran

On-Water Education

IT'S ALL HANDS ON DECK ABOARD THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN FLOATING Laboratory — the University of Vermont's research vessel, the "Melosira" — that offers public tours from **ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center** in Burlington (864-1848, www.echovermont.org). On the 2½-hour expeditions (\$32 and up), passengers can watch and assist researchers as they check fish traps, sample lake water to test for organic matter such as blue-green algae and look at water samples under a microscope in the high-tech onboard laboratory.

You can also take advantage of the center's partnership with the Community Sailing Center. On sailboat tours, guides experienced in environmental education provide information about the geology and history of the Lake Champlain Basin. After the water tour you can visit ECHO free of charge to learn more about the lake and see exhibits of plants and animals in the water.



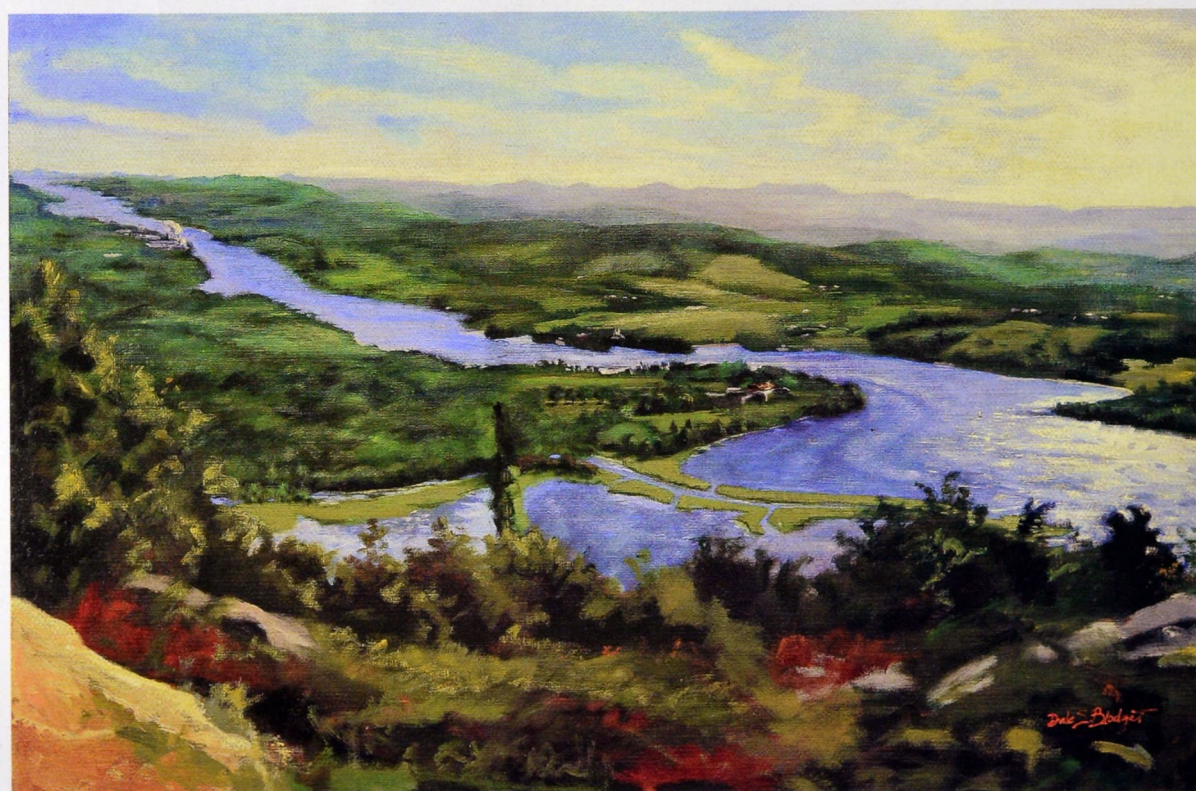
Paul O. Boisvert

Cheap Date

PERHAPS THE LEAST EXPENSIVE WAY to get out on the water is with **Lake Champlain Ferries** (from \$3.75 one way, 864-9804, www.ferries.com). The car and passenger ferries make numerous trips daily, ranging from 20 minutes to 1 hour, from three crossings along Vermont's shoreline at Grand Isle, Burlington and Charlotte. All aboard! 🍀



Open to



Above:
Helen Shulman's
"Waiting for
Champlain"
Above right:
Bonnie Acker's
"Champlain
Organic"

Left:
Dale Blodget's
"9 a.m. from
Mount Defiance"

Interpretation

38 artists capture the mystery
and wonder of Lake Champlain

By TOM SLAYTON

LAKE CHAMPLAIN, WHICH DOMINATES most of western Vermont, has been many things to many people in its long history — an explorer's pathway, a warrior's strategic route, an entrepreneur's opportunity and home to thousands who have lived along its shores.

Its appeal to artists is no less diverse. In "Champlain's Lake Rediscovered: Vermont Artists Celebrate the Lake," each of the 38 artists in this broad-reaching and beautifully executed exhibit has combined his or her own creative spirit, medium and artistic style with the immense subject. The result is 38 very different expressions of the lake — different lakes, if you will.

There are, for instance, several traditional, realistic landscapes. Dale Blodget offers the huge views for which Lake Champlain is justly celebrated. Bonnie Acker's paper collage, "Cham-

plain Organic," and Ken Rush's oil, "Champlain Bridge Fractal," step away from traditional landscape forms to give us a more expressionist and intellectual view of the life surrounding the lake. Acker's view is a positive one, with images of smiling workers harvesting fruit (the word "organic" beams just below) as wild geese ascend from a marsh into the sky. It is an ideal vision of place. Rush's composition, by contrast, employs industrial images, including the long arc of the Champlain Bridge, to invoke the contemporary world of commerce and industry that surrounds the lake.

One of the most compelling images in the show is Helen Shulman's beautiful oil, "Waiting for Champlain," which presents the lake in three indistinct, dreamlike views, united by their warm, earthy palette. As the

title hints, this is Lake Champlain as the great French explorer might have himself encountered it: wild, undeveloped, both beckoning and slightly ominous. The largest view here is of a reedy wetland where banks of autumn-hued reeds open to a winding watery passageway. Vignettes within the larger composition show hazy views of a wooded bay and the open lake nestled among surrounding mountains. The painting captures both the sense of mystery and wonder that Champlain must have felt as he first entered this huge lake, and the sense of vague discovery that we contemporary viewers sometimes encounter in dreams.

Thus, like many images in this fine show, it links us, mind-to-mind with the past, deepening our experience of the lake through the medium of art. 🍀

Exhibition dates and locations:

- May 8–25: Shelburne Farms, Shelburne
- June 1–15: National Arts Club, New York City
- June 29–Aug. 3: Boston Public Library
- Aug. 19–Sept. 20: Southern Vermont Arts Center, Manchester
- Sept. 23–Oct. 31: Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier





Base Camp

Summer haven provides stability and fun for kids from the hardscrabble side of rural life

AT 7 A.M. ON A LATE AUGUST DAY BY LAKE FAIRLEE, campers emerge from their platform tents with sleepy eyes and sweatshirts zippered against the morning chill. A makeshift band — composed of Matt Melendy, 9, on honky horn, Ben Chambers, 8, on flexitone, and three staff members — plays a reveille with gusto as everyone drifts down the hill. Youngsters sit on the dining hall steps by the lake cuddled under blankets watching the brave ones strip down to their bathing suits and cannonball through the mist into the water. From her perch on the steps, Marisha Stimpson, 14, explains with typical teenage ennui that her hometown of North Concord is “the most boring place on earth.” But, the seven-year camp veteran adds enthusiastically, “I love everything about camp.”



By MELISSA PASANEN
Photographed by JORDAN SILVERMAN



“These are kids who live in a stressed environment, I’m not saying these kids have rough lives.”

Summer camp is always a blast, but especially so for youngsters at Camp Exclamation Point, which provides a weeklong respite from hardscrabble lives for children who come from the not-so-bucolic side of rural life. Some live in isolated communities, or lack family and community resources, and many are the children of temporary agriculture workers, who often uproot seasonally and have other family-stability issues.

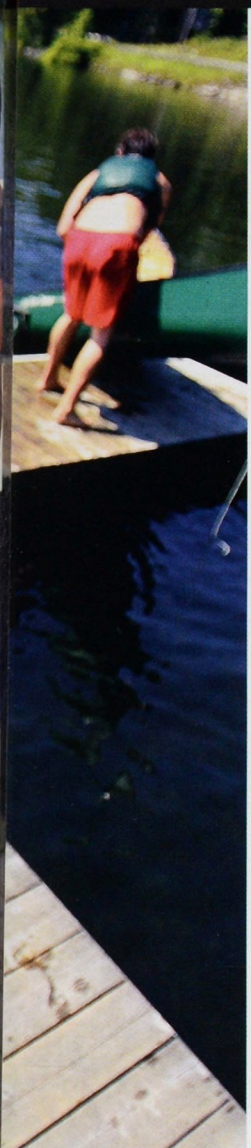
“These are kids who live in a stressed environment,” says Erin Shea, recruitment coordinator of the Vermont Migrant Education Program, whose work ties in with the camp. “I’m not saying they’re not loved, but these kids have rough lives.”

Launched in 1988, the camp at that time was federally funded by the Vermont Migrant Education Program, which focuses on educational support services for children of families that relocate for seasonal or temporary agriculture work.

In Vermont, this is most often families of farm workers on large dairy farms looking for job security or better pay.

When funding dried up after the camp’s third season, staff couldn’t bear to see it disappear, recalls Judy Bush, the original arts director and later the camp director for many years. She said it had quickly become obvious that the camp provided a touchstone of stability and continuity for children who experience little of either in their lives. “At camp, you are part of the community and you can come back,” says Bush. “It gives you a feeling of belonging. It gives you an idea of what can be.”

After a group brainstorm, the nonprofit Camp Exclamation Point was born. The camp still gives priority to children in the Vermont Migrant Education Program, but also now reaches out to other youngsters in need due to rural isolation, lack of family and community resources, and disruption



They're not loved, but

of life, including frequent moves; of 110 campers each year, 85 percent qualify for government food subsidy programs.

The free camp runs on a modest annual budget met through grants and fundraising. The Aloha Foundation, which owns the camp facility, charges a minimal rental fee and the 80-plus staff members — ages 18 to 68 with teachers, bakers and lawyers among them — are almost exclusively volunteers, many of whom use vacation time to come every year. "I've never met a group of people who are so dedicated; camp is like a rock in the life of these kids," says Shea.

A few minutes before 8 a.m., the sun shines softly through the mist on the lake, swimmers towel themselves off, and breakfast is served. Campers carry trays of cereal, locally grown melon and freshly baked blueberry coffeecake back to their "table families." About three-quarters of campers





“You build community by wrapping your arms around kids from the moment they arrive.”

return each year and table assignments vary from year to year, one of the many ways camp works to create different forms of community. At one table, there are six campers ages 8 to 13 sitting with two counselors and counselor-in-training Abby Nash, 16, of Cabot, who has been coming to camp with some of her seven siblings since she was 8. Each shares a favorite part of camp: “the meals and all the stuff you learn from everybody,” says Mia Eaton, 13, of East Corinth; “being able to help everybody in a lower pod,” says Tyler Poquette, 13, of Milton, referring to the newer campers; kayaking, swimming and archery, the younger kids throw in. Nash reflects for a few minutes: “It’s definitely a safe and fun and loving environment,” she offers with a shy smile, “and that’s not something you can find everywhere.”

Before campers head off to do chores, followed by their choice of activities including spear-throwing, sushi-making

and canoe rescue, there is a sing-along with lots of dancing, laughter and hugs. A few kids hang back, but most are fully engaged. “You build community by wrapping your arms around kids from the moment they arrive,” managing director Harry Frank explains later. “There’s always a kid who gets off the bus and is a challenge every step of the way, but by the end of the week they’re in tears when it’s time to leave. They have not been a pleasure to deal with, but there is a commitment we have to each other. ... It’s always amazing to me how difficult it is to say goodbye.”

Many never say a final goodbye. “People come here and they don’t stop coming,” says Troy Scully, a counselor from New Jersey. Not only do staff return, but a number of former campers have become volunteers. It’s about giving back and staying connected, explains Holly Brown of Bakersfield, who sent three children to camp, all of whom

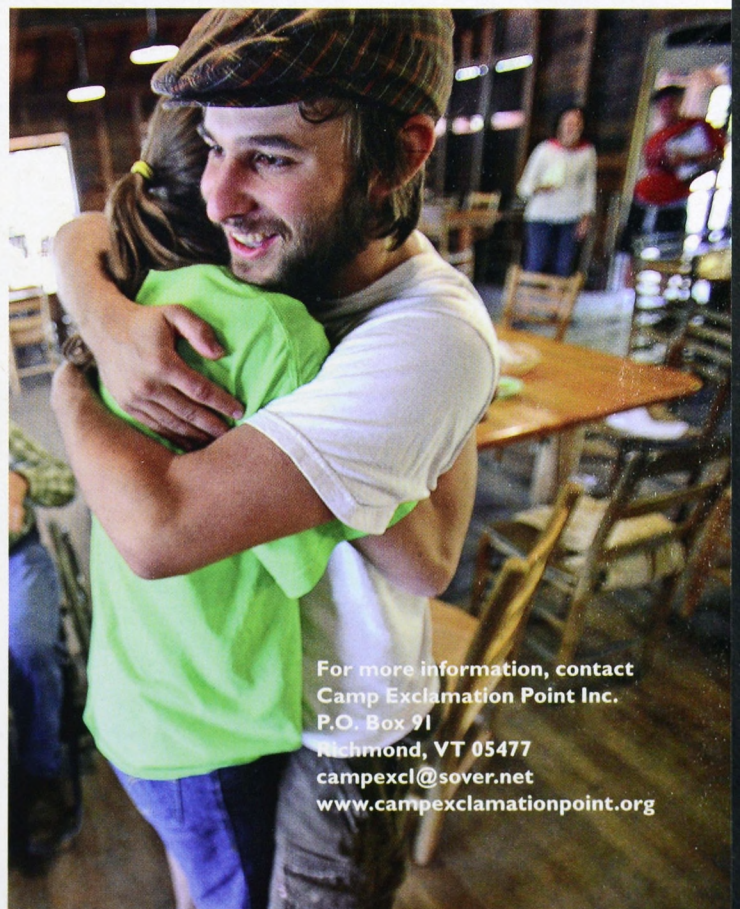


om the

are now in college but return to volunteer whenever they can. "It was the most outrageous gift we were ever given for our kids," she says.

Josceyln Knight of St. Albans has attended camp every summer but one for 20 years. Now 28, she spends a week of her vacation volunteering and also serves on the camp board. When she was a child, her family moved fairly often for her father's farm work. "You'd go to school and if you'd been in the barn, they'd tease you like, 'Moo, you smell like a cow,'" she recalls. "But at camp everyone's equal. They're not judging you. I just loved camp so much. It's a part of my life. They're my extended family. I will do it forever." 🍀

To see a slide show of summer fun at Camp Exclamation Point, visit www.VermontLife.com.



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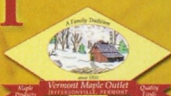
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Some events require advance reservations. For more information contact the Mount Snow Valley Chamber of Commerce at (802) 464-8092 or visit

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Natural Ingredients
(continued from page 39)

Besides gelato, Pizza on Earth also serves up decadent chocolate cupcakes with buttercream frosting.



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On designated summer nights, when Stony Loam CSA participants come to pick up their weekly haul, Pizza on Earth is in full swing, serving pizzas and gelato as fast as they can be made. The setup is takeout only, but many stay to dine at the few scattered picnic tables or on blankets spread on the rolling lawn.

Stacy Fraser, her husband Nate Carr and their 3-year-old, Sawyer, are among the faithful. Fraser, who works as Test Kitchen manager for Eating-Well magazine, loves the thin crust and smoky flavor of the pizzas. Her favorites include "The Spudnik" — a bacon, potato and sour cream combo that Jay rotates through the offerings, as well as the superb pepperoni pizza. "Since they serve gelato, we can make a whole night of it," she says. And she treasures the experience.

"You see all of your neighbors and friends," says Fraser. "It's a perfect summer social pleasure." Like other patrons, she remarks on the "amazing" sunsets that can be viewed from the property. "What makes us happy is that we can support the CSA and another local business, Pizza on Earth," says Fraser. "And we have such a good time doing it." 🍷

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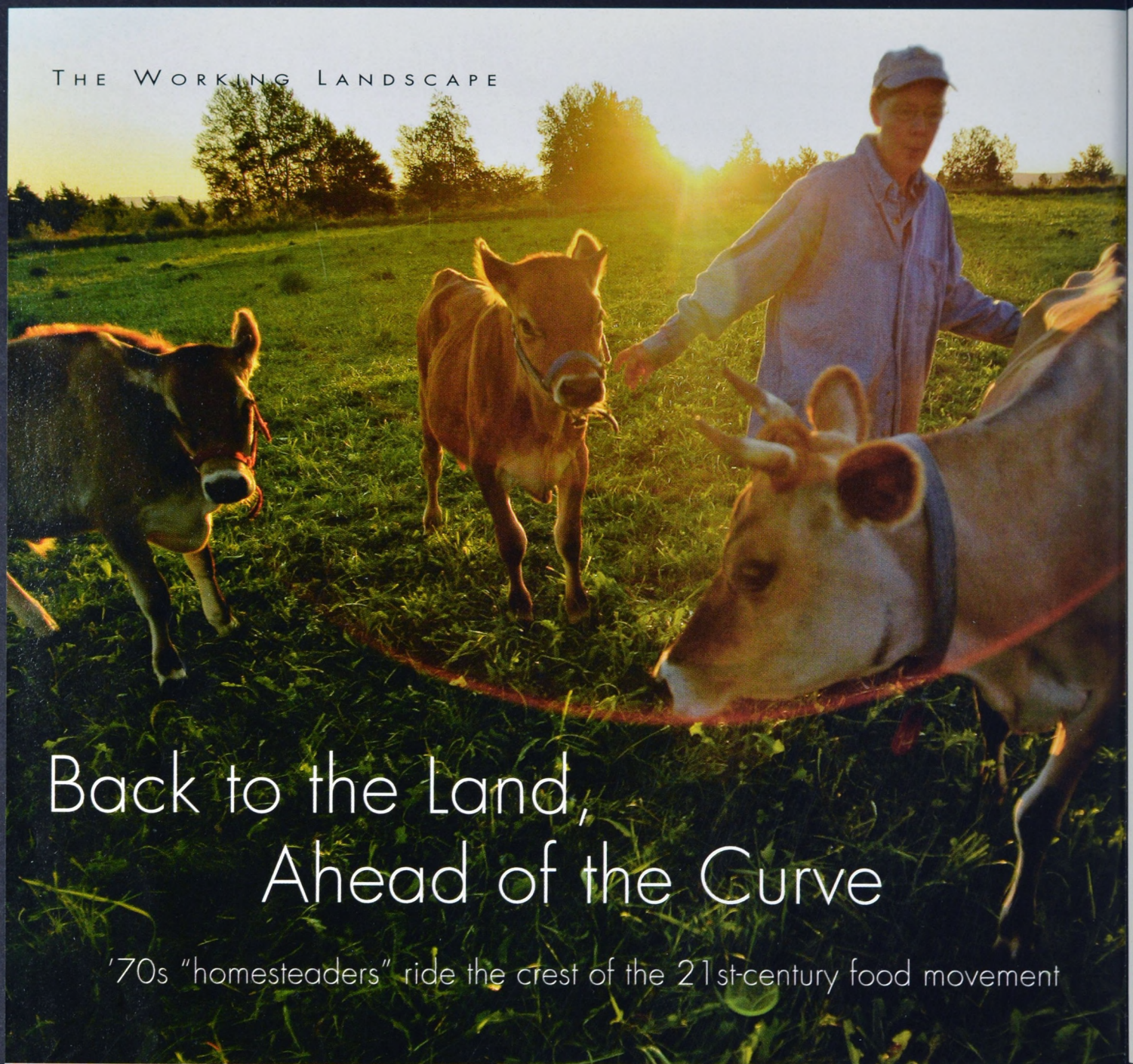
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Back to the Land, Ahead of the Curve

'70s "homesteaders" ride the crest of the 21st-century food movement



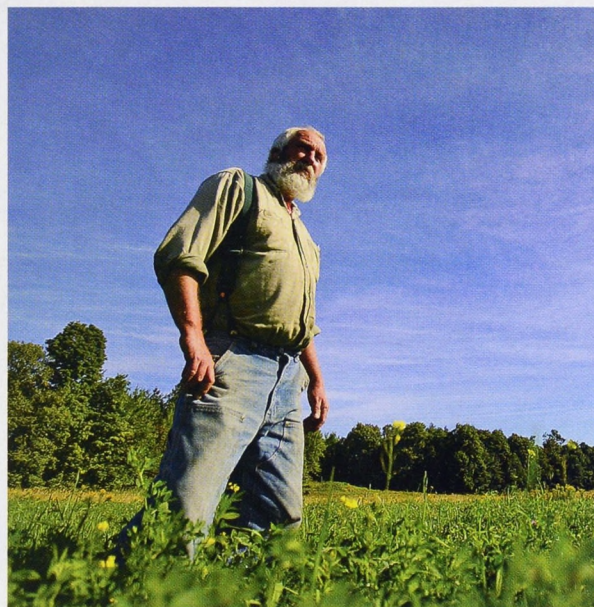
"We wanted enough hay to feed
a cow or two and a team of horses.

We wanted a pig.

We were
homesteaders."

By MELISSA PASANEN

Photographed by JORDAN SILVERMAN



THERE ARE PLASTIC YOGURT CARTONS everywhere at Butterworks Farm. Sitting on windowsills, shelves, tables and floors, the sturdy containers — graced with an illustration of a Jersey cow — hold everything from grain to paint to oil to odd nails. In the granary, the lids are even used as ingenious labels on the various grinders and mills. The cartons' main job, though, is to carry 7,000 quarts of Butterworks' signature product away from the Northeast Kingdom farm every week. They go up to Maine and down as far as Virginia, where the organic yogurt made from the milk of their 50 Jerseys has sold briskly at Whole Foods and other stores, generating a devoted following and close to \$1 million in annual revenue.

It's not exactly what Jack and Anne Lazor expected when they bought their first 60 acres in Westfield in 1976, using Anne's graduate school money. "We wanted enough hay to feed a cow or two and a team of horses. We wanted a pig. We were homesteaders," recalls Jack, 58. Both had other jobs: Jack as a teacher and Anne as a mental health caregiver. "I thought we were going to stop at 12 cows," Anne, 57, says, a little wistfully, over a summer lunch of salad from their garden and Jersey beef tacos topped with farm-grown black beans, homemade cottage cheese and sour cream, and cheddar made for them with their own milk. She takes the lead in caring for the herd of 100 cows, including 50 milkers, while Jack manages 350 acres of pasture and crops.

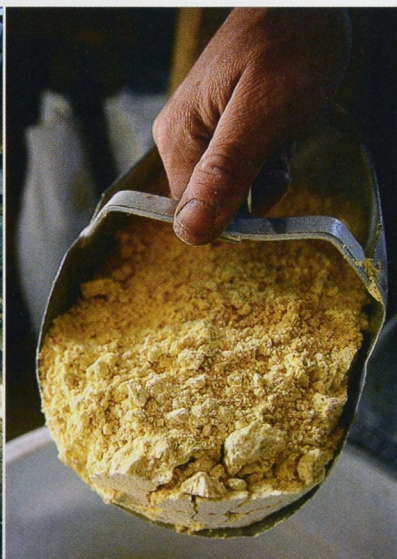
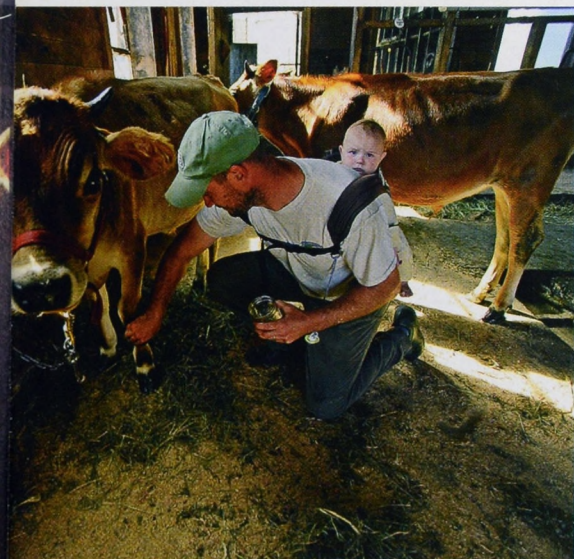
The farm also supports the equivalent of seven full-time employees.

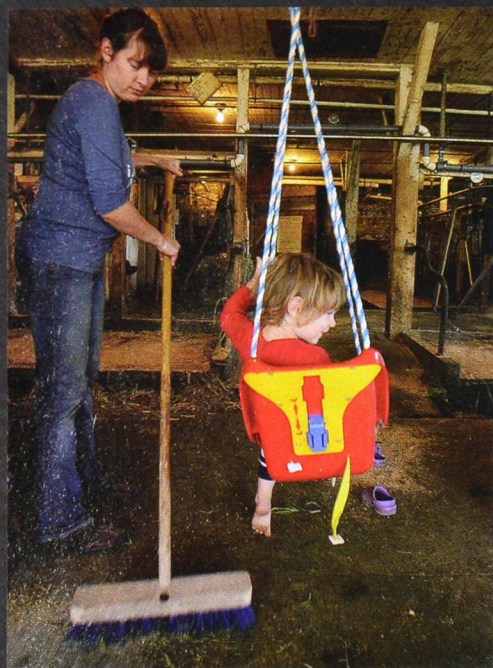
The Lazors are too busy now to make their own stovetop yogurt, the way it all started back in the late '70s, but their commercial product is not that far removed. They have never added anything but live cultures and natural flavors like Vermont maple syrup, never needed stabilizers or thickeners because of the high protein content of the Jersey milk. There was no grand plan when they began selling their dairy products to friends and neighbors. "Jack's such a born marketer. We would make stuff and he would just go door to door," his wife says. The fledgling business took off soon after their daughter was born in 1979, and by 1984, Butterworks was fully licensed. "We were up all night for the cottage cheese and yogurt, not for the baby," Anne says with a smile.

During the 30 years since those first sales, the Lazors have become legendary within the Vermont agricultural community for trailblazing organic dairy practices, building a profitable farm-based business without compromising their values, generously sharing their experience, and continuing

Above: Butterworks Farm owner Jack Lazor manages the 350 acres of pasture and crops, while his wife Anne, top left, cares for the herd of 100 cows.

From left: Erin O'Neil feeds the cows; Jack displays soybeans used for feed; Collin Mahoney works with baby Ursula on his back; a scoop of Early Riser cornmeal.





From top left, clockwise: Christine Lazor sweeps beneath her daughter, while husband Collin Mahoney goes about his chores with 9-month-old Ursula on his back. Anne hauls a bucket the old-fashioned way, while a worker stacks shelves full of the company's signature nonfat yogurt.

The license plate on his truck reads
"YOGURT" for a reason.
 "The yogurt pays for everything else."

to break ground with new plant trials and farming methods. Burlington farmer and state representative David Zuckerman, who is also the former chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, agrees. "Jack and Anne Lazor have been pioneers in so many aspects of both organic production and diversified production," he says, "they really are role models for so many Vermont farmers." Even Gary Hirshberg, founder of Stonyfield Farm — that other New England yogurt company — "calls Jack Lazor his hero," reported a 2003 article in *The Atlantic*. "We're so many peoples' hero," Jack acknowledges with a mix of appreciation, pride, and wonder. "We've become this myth. It's hard to live up to."

On a late July afternoon last summer at one of his fields in Troy, about 10 miles north of Butterworks Farm, Jack followed the combine as it harvested rows of golden wheat growing picture-perfect with a brick-red covered bridge in the distance. Maple yogurt container in hand, the farmer climbed nimbly up the huge machine and scooped out some threshed kernels. He felt a few between his fingers and pronounced them good and hard. The six-acre field of soft white winter wheat, he explained, would yield about seven to eight tons of flour. "That'll feed a lot

of people a lot of pastry flour," he said with satisfaction. A quick tour of some of the farm's other off-site fields included 25 acres of soy beans for the cows, two different kinds of flint corn that had struggled with a wet summer but were "all tasseled out," much to Jack's pleasure, rippling fields of rye and more wheat, and acres of giant sunflowers poised to open their beaming blooms.

Since their early homesteading days, the Lazors have grown wheat and other grains, gradually increasing the variety and quantity while balancing the acreage needed for the animal feed and pasture forage upon which their herd depends. They were already making sunflower oil back in 1998, but the localvore movement of the last few years has boosted awareness and consumer demand for everything they produce, especially less easily found ingredients like dry beans, cornmeal and cooking oil. While the Lazors appreciate the enthusiasm and support of local foods advocates, sometimes, they admit, it can become overwhelming. A few years ago the sunflower crop failed and there was no oil; they felt as if they had let people down. The nondairy products are much more weather-dependent. "If we had to make our living off beans and grains, we'd be dead," Lazor observes. The license plate on his truck

reads "yogurt" for a reason. "The yogurt pays for everything else," he says.

Climbing up and up to the top of the farm's granary, Jack shared his "observation tower" where we could see some pastureland with the mountains of Québec in the northern distance. To the west lay fields of spelt and hard red winter wheat and the farm's windmill, which supplies about one-third of the operation's power needs. To the south, Jack pointed out "our beautiful compost piles. We turned them yesterday." Their richness comes from the herd's winter straw bedding and waste. And to the east, beyond his and Anne's home, some of the farm's toffee-colored cows grazed on lush pasture.

From this vantage point, Jack can see much to be proud of, but also much work still to be done. "We'd like to be more self-reliant," he said, echoing his wife who had said that one of their main goals remains "to grow more food with less oil." He's enjoying crossbreeding corn and working with UVM Extension on wheat trials, and he recently joined some grain growers in northern New England to help mentor more farmers so they can benefit from increased consumer demand. "There's so much potential for us to learn and also disseminate our knowledge and experience," he said. "Everything's just going round and round and it feels good."

Looking over the farm, Jack is perhaps most proud of the dirt. "Soil fertility is really a very important thing to me," he said, "that we have been able to nurture people and animals both on high-quality, mineralized foods and forages. Clover is everywhere. The milk is extra sweet. When you look around at 30 years of giving more than you took, you look around and the earth is giving back to you, that is rewarding." Another major source of pride, the couple agrees, is seeing their daughter return to the farm. Christine Lazor, 29, and her husband Collin Mahoney, 35, are raising their two daughters in a farmhouse Jack can glimpse from the top of his granary. "I always came back because the food was better and there was more space," Christine said with a smile, watching her 9-month-old daughter, Ursula, dig in the dirt. "It's a pretty special place. I hope it can continue to evolve in a way that people learn from — including us." 🍀



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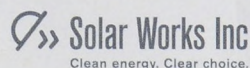
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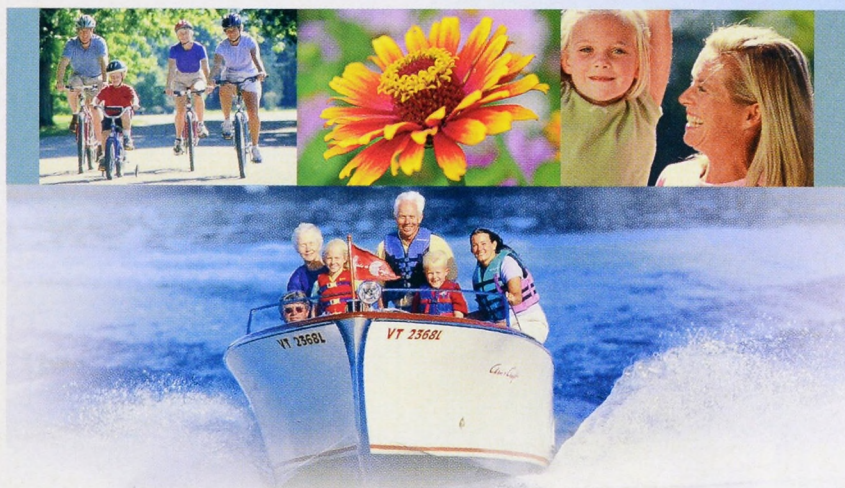
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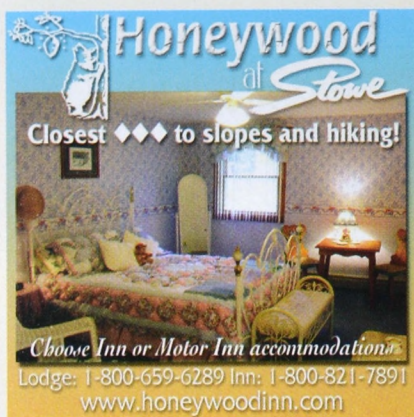
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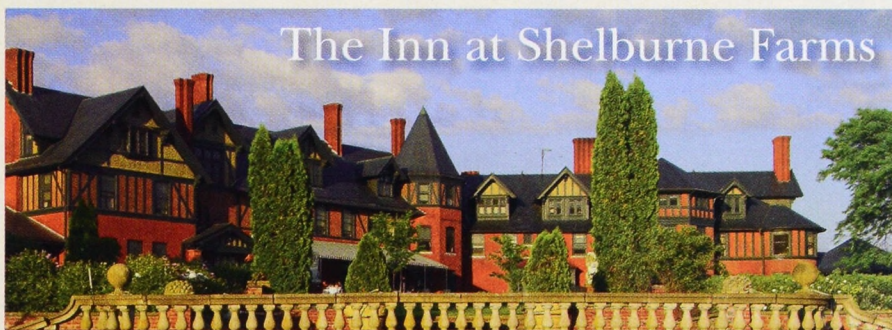
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Cave Men

Jasper Hill affineurs mine a new vein for Vermont's farm-and-cheese connection

Brothers Andy (left)
and Mateo Kehler in
their cheese cave at
Jasper Hill Farm



SIX YEARS AGO, IN A SEEMINGLY SIMPLE DEAL, VERMONT cheese titan Cabot Creamery asked a small artisan start-up, Jasper Hill Farm of Greensboro, for help in aging a batch of cheese.

Cabot was looking to get in on the emerging artisan cheese market, and Jasper Hill Farm was keen to join forces with a large partner. Jasper Hill ripened 188 wheels of cheese for Cabot, then both sides waited for the money to roll in.

Nearly a year later, five wheels had been sold. Cabot was a prestigious brand with mass market clout; clearly something wasn't working.

So Jasper Hill gave it a try. The farm's owners — two brothers in their 30s, Andy and Mateo Kehler — tapped into their much smaller but niche customer base that includes natural food cooperatives throughout Vermont and high-end cheese shops in New York City. "We sold it all in 10 days," Mateo says.

A light went on at Jasper Hill — and a new model in Vermont's farm-and-cheese connection began to take shape.

Jasper Hill realized it could accept cheese from others and be the affineur, or ager, and then take it to market. If they could do it for Cabot, they could do it for small farms all over northeastern Vermont. It would bring farmers a much-needed higher return than they would get for liquid milk, and it would take the costly procedure of aging out of the equation. "The partnership with Cabot was instrumental in helping us to think big about what was possible," Mateo says (and it also paved the way for Cabot Clothbound Cheddar to become a national award-winning cheese).

By LESLIE WRIGHT
 Photographed by JIM WESTPHALEN

Expanding further, the Kehlers also envisioned artisan cheese as a vehicle to support the local economy and keep small family farms working the landscape. This broader vision was part of the Kehlers' original dream in starting the farm (see box), and it may even be encoded in the Kehlers' DNA: their father Thomas performed a similar feat in the '60s, pioneering the cut-flower industry in Colombia.

To bring their vision into focus, the Kehlers needed more room than they had in the basement of their hillside farmhouse. Last year, with help from outside investors, they built a \$3.2 million cave for aging cheese.

While common in Europe, the cheese cave was the first of its kind in the United States. Twenty-two thousand square feet in size with the capacity to age 2 million pounds of cheese, it can service approximately 35 farms milking about 80 cows, goats or sheep each. About a dozen cheesemakers are already aging their products with Jasper Hill, ranging from familiar names like Cabot and Grafton Village Cheese Co. to aficionado labels such as Dancing Cow Farm, Lazy Lady Farm and Twig Farm. There are also, of course, Jasper Hill's own award-winning cheeses — Constant Bliss, Bayley Hazen Blue and Aspenhurst among them. And the cave has added to Vermont's growing national reputation as a cheese producer, even a "cheese destination" that attracts foodies with a taste for exquisite cheese.

The cave itself is a bunker-like structure, dug into a hillside with seven separate arched concrete vaults drilled into the embankment. Vaults are kept between 41 and 55 degrees, depending on the type of cheese, and the faint scent of ammonia, a byproduct of the aging process, wafts through the air. Wheels of mold-splotched cheeses line shelves six or more rows high.

By the end of the year, Swiss-made robots will brush and turn the cheese. The idea is to let machines do the grunt work while Jasper Hill develops skilled positions and better-paying jobs for humans.

Jasper Hill's success is part of the fabric of Vermont's ongoing agricultural story: the effort to link agriculture both old and new with local communities, high food quality and a sustainable model that keeps the landscape working in family-farm hands. But, Liz Thorpe, vice president of Murray's Cheese, a renowned cheese shop in New York's West Village, also says Jasper Hill's aging facility has the potential to become a national model.

Thorpe has singled out Jasper Hill's cellars, along with two other cheesemakers in the United States, as beacons of the future in her book, "The Cheese Chronicles," due out this summer. She notes that having an affineur handle the aging and marketing of cheese is helpful to the small farmer. Not only is the aging taken care of — a process that accounts for about 60 percent of the labor of cheesemaking — but having a giant producer like Cabot on board provides the volume needed to succeed.

"It makes sense for everybody," Thorpe says of Jasper Hill's partnerships and model. "The way I met Mateo Kehler, he was just starting. I remember him saying the hardest part of being a cheesemaker is aging your cheese. He said 'I can't not milk the cows. I can't not make the cheese. I can't not send out an order. If I have to trim, it's in the aging room.'" Thorpe says, adding, "They could become a model for a really viable, long-term approach to cheesemaking and distribution ... In 50 years, there could be models like Jasper Hill all over the country." 🍄



In their own words

"We are a small family farm located in Greensboro, the heart of Vermont's beautiful Northeast Kingdom. We took on Jasper Hill Farm, which had fallen into dereliction like so many throughout Vermont, in the summer of 1998. Greensboro lost five dairy farms that year, a blow to the working landscape that beautifies this part of the world.

We struggled to come up with an alternative production model capable of sustaining us, and the land. After exploring a few bad ideas (farmstead beer and baked tofu from our own soybeans stands out), we settled on farmstead cheese and spent the next five years building the skills base necessary to achieve our mission. In July 2002 we purchased 15 Ayrshire heifers, and so began our adventure in sustainable agricultural development."

— www.jasperhillfarm.com

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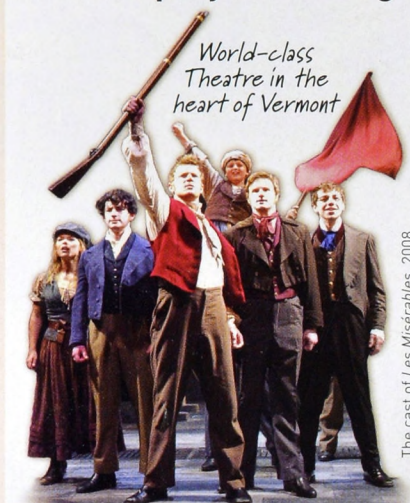
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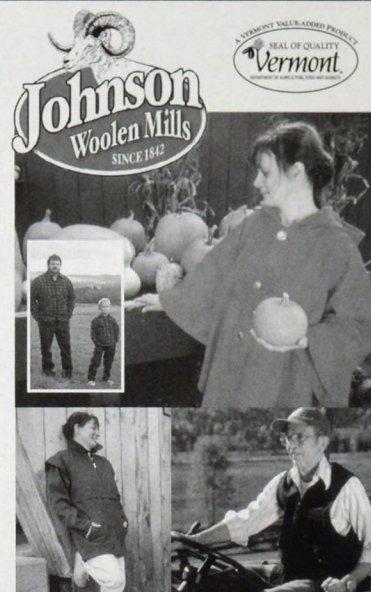
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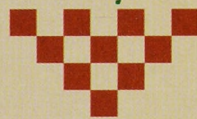


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- July, Tuesdays in North Hero
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- July 24, 25 & 26, Grand Isle
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- July 11 & 12, Champlain Islands
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- July - August, Sundays, Isle La Motte
Sunday Tea & Music, Fisk Farm
- August 6, 7 & 8, North Hero
Island Craft Show
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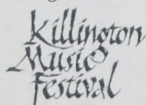
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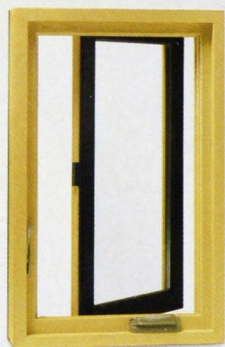
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Events
(continued from page 9)

May

17:
English hand-bell ensemble **Northern Bronze** plays a benefit concert for Island Arts. 3 p.m. Congregational Church, South Hero. 372-8400.

Enjoy Vermont flora during the **Middlesex Notch Wildflower Walk**, and inventory the botanical wealth, butterflies and birds of the new Middlesex town forest. 1 to 4 p.m. Carpool from the North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier. 229-6206.

21-Aug. 9

It's easy to brush aside the work of contemporary landscape painter Thomas Kinkade as kitsch, but to do so ignores his sincere zeal and the deep resonance his work holds for many people, argues Middlebury College Museum of Art. See the exhibition and take a second look at the artist's contributions, **Making Sense of Thomas Kinkade**. Guest curator Michael Clapper, associate professor of art history at Franklin and Marshall College. Overbrook Gallery, Middlebury. 443-5007.

22-24:

High-flying aerialists, bendy contortionists and acrobatic duos delight the crowd at the **New England Center for Circus Arts' Graduation Shows**. After nine months of circus school, these clowns are ready to perform for you! New England Center for Circus Arts, Brattleboro. 254-9780.

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24:

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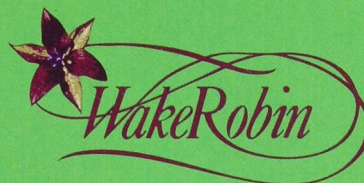
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Talking Heads frontman, performs at Ben & Jerry's Concerts on The Green series. Shelburne Museum, Shelburne. 7 p.m. (888) 512-7469.

5:

See the work of local artists at 40 to 55 venues in Brattleboro at **Gallery Walk**. Event continues the first Friday of each month. Listings available at www.gallery-walk.org or at the Interstate 91 Welcome Center in Guilford. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. 257-2616.

15:

Learn the essential skills of safe hand tool use and maintenance at the Green Mountain Club workshop **An Ax to Grind: Using and Maintaining Basic Trail Tools**. Spend the morning learning about tool maintenance and then head out onto the trail to practice using tools safely and efficiently. Register by June 12. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Green Mountain Club Headquarters, Waterbury Center. 244-7037.

20-22:

Celebrate Father's Day outdoors by entering the **Lake Champlain International Fishing Derby**. Nearly 150 awards

including 70 places in the species categories, plus another 30 junior places, and more than 35 raffles with hundreds of drawings. Some of the highlights from last year include a 26-inch catfish, a 35-inch carp and a 17½-pound northern pike. Lake Champlain. 879-3466.

25-28:

Vermont Theatre Company presents Shakespeare-in-the-Park **"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** 6 p.m. Living Memorial Park, Rotary Stage. Brattleboro. 258-1344.

28:

Get your dancin' shoes on and head to the **Big Band Benefit Dance** to help support Brownington's Old Stone House Museum. 8 to 11 p.m. Town Hall, Irasburg. 754-2022.

The first of the summer's **Circus Smirkus** shows takes place with the theme "Smirkus Ever After: A Big Top Fairy Tale." 1 and 6 p.m. Circus Smirkus headquarters, Greensboro. Other shows throughout the summer in Essex, Manchester, Brattleboro and Montpelier. (877) 764-7587.

July
3:

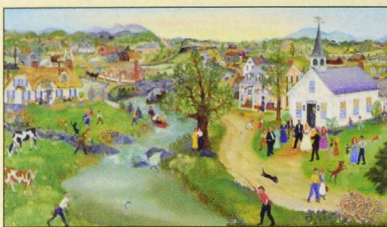
The Capital City comes alive with a massive parade and full day of festivities. The **Montpelier Independence Day Celebration** includes fireworks, music performances, food and more. Join the 20,000 others who attend this event each year. 223-9604.

Juried Vermont artists offer unique, handmade items at the **Burklyn Arts Council Summer Craft Fair**. The event is held under a tent and is full of fun, including children's activities, entertainment and strawberry shortcake. The weekend continues with more fun such as train rides to and from St. Johnsbury, an appearance by Teddy Roosevelt, fiddlers contest and more. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bandstand Park, Lyndonville. 328-2683.

10-12:

The **Basin Bluegrass Festival** is all things bluegrass and includes a lineup featuring Lorraine Jordan & Carolina Road, Blue Horizon, Acoustic Blue, Blistered Fingers, Cabin Fever, Big Spike (of Vermont) and Crossover. Camping available. Basin Road, Brandon. 247-3275.

WILL MOSES



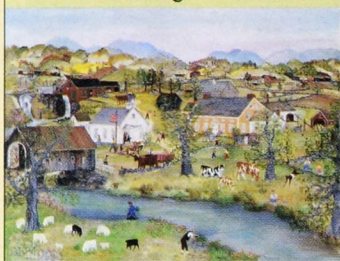
"The River of Life"

Serigraph 16" X 28"

\$375

WILL MOSES

Trout Fishing in Vermont

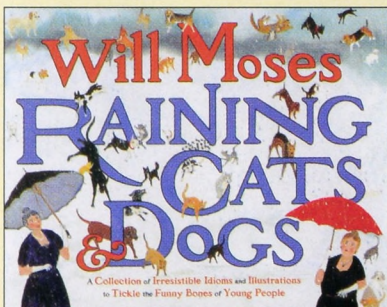


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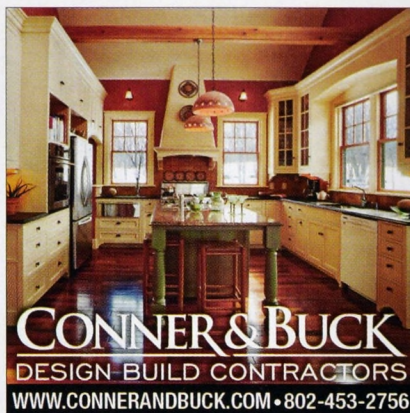
Framing Format, St. Johnsbury, VT.

Inch by Inch, Bennington, VT.

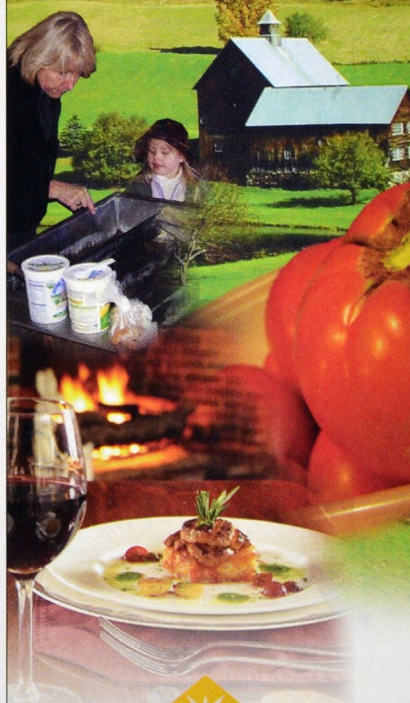
Jay Country Store, Jay, VT.

Parade Gallery, Warren, VT.

Vermont Artisan Designs, Brattleboro, VT.



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Events

12-18:

Celebrate the season at the Middlebury **Summer Festival on the Green**. Street dance, family music, jazz ensemble and more. Middlebury Village Green, Middlebury. 462-3555.

13-14:

Charlie Chaplin's granddaughter, Aurelia Thierree, presents **Aurelia's Oratorio**, theater, circus arts and surrealism. A Quadri-centennial celebration event. Flynn Center, Burlington. 7 p.m. Monday, and 2 and 7 p.m. Tuesday. 863-5966.

14:

Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **Jackson Browne** plays the Ben & Jerry's Concerts on The Green series. Shelburne Museum, Shelburne. 7 p.m. (888) 512-7469.

The first of the **Summer Music From Greensboro** concerts kicks off with **Synergy Brass Quintet**: Bobby Thorp and Rachel Rodriguez on trumpets; Jon Hurrell on horn; Jordan Witt on trombone and Jesse Chavez on tuba play classical music from Glinka and Gershwin to Sousa. 8 p.m. United Church of Christ, Greensboro. Other concerts July 21 and 28, Aug. 4 and 11. 525-3291.

17-18

The Vermont Brewers Association presents the 17th annual **Vermont Brewers Festival**, showcasing the products of micro-breweries and brewpubs of Vermont, New England and New York. Waterfront Park, Burlington. www.vermontbrewers.com

17-24:

Anyone with an interest in the Appalachian Trail is invited to the **Appalachian Trail Festival 2009 — the biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy**. Trail enthusiasts come together to hike, bike, visit historic sites and learn what is happening with America's longest marked footpath. Castleton State College, Castleton. 244-7037.

17-Oct. 16:

Billings Farm & Museum offers a twist on eating locally — try seasonal produce from the heirloom garden in historic recipes during **Foodways Friday**. See meals being prepared in the 1890 farmhouse kitchen, and then take a recipe home.



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Each Friday. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock. 457-2355.

19

The **Vermont Mozart Festival** has its grand opening with dressage at The Inn at Shelburne Farm in Shelburne. This esteemed concert series continues through the summer in locations across the state. Visit www.vtmozart.com or call 862-7352.

23-26:

Enjoy beautiful Lake Memphremagog at **Kingdom Aquafest**. Volleyball, kayak races, frog jumping, clowns, parade of pets, swim race, rib contest, beer tent, flea market, antique tractors and monster truck rides. Prouty Beach, Newport. 323-1273.

26:

One of Canada's top rock bands, **The Tragically Hip** has also built a loyal following in many U.S. states that receive Canadian radio stations. Described in promotional material as "an indie-rock band with an arena sound," the group plays the Ben & Jerry's Concerts on The Green series. Shelburne Museum, Shelburne. 6 p.m. (888) 512-7469.

August 1-31

The Mad River Valley bursts with art, food, garden tours, music and more during the annual **Vermont Festival of the Arts**. More than 125 events in communities throughout the valley. www.vermontartfest.com.

7:

A New Yorker now living in Argentina, **Richard Shindell** is an innovative, original and sometimes spiritual musician. Concert to benefit the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House. 8 p.m. Vergennes Opera House, Vergennes. 877-6737.

16:

Franco-American singer-songwriter **Michèle Choinière** (featured in our Winter 2007-2008 issue) brings the cultures of both sides of the border together with a performance at the Grand Isle Lake House. Time TBA. Grand Isle. 796-3439.

20:

If you really like corn, don't miss **The Amazing Brandon StreetFest and Dance**, a celebration of the versatile vegetable. Vendors will sell corn-related food samples — roasted

ears, chowder, salsa and more. Hayrides and a performance by rockabilly favorites the Starline Rhythm Boys round out the fun. 5 p.m. Central Park, Brandon. 247-6401.

Through Oct. 25

New exhibits at Shelburne Museum include "Full Throttle: Vintage Motorcycles, Custom Choppers and Racing Machines," celebrating the design and artistry of the motorcycle; "The Bright and Shining Light of Irreverence: Richard Saja and the Historically Inaccurate School," showcasing the quirky textile designer's sense of style; and "Piecing Together the Past: The Quilts of Florence Peto," honoring Peto, who helped museum founder Electra Havemeyer Webb collect quilts. Exhibits run until Oct. 25. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 985-3346.

- All area codes 802 unless otherwise noted.
- Schedules subject to change; please call ahead to events.
- Sometimes we find out about great events after the magazine has gone to press. As an added benefit to subscribing to our e-newsletter, 802:The Green Mountain News, you'll get an updated list of great Vermont events each month. To sign up, visit www.VermontLife.com/gm-news/newsletter.htm.



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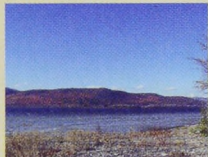
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Brush Piling

By CASTLE FREEMAN JR.

Illustrated by JEAN CARLSON MASSEAU

EVERYBODY SEEKS ORDER IN HIS LIFE somewhere, somehow. Through work, through family, through faith, and in other ways large and small, we bring structure to our days. On the simplest and most literal level, we try to keep our house in order.

It matters, of course, how big a house we're talking about. The city dweller may have only a couple of rooms in which to impose an order that satisfies him; the villager, not much more: a house, a yard, a garden. It's the countryman, with acres at his disposal, who truly has a field on which to express his need for figure, for form. Indeed, he has a field large enough to reduce his striving for order to the vain, the derisory, the merely eccentric — and this nowhere more than in the wooded hill country of Vermont.

I had occasion to reflect along these lines last fall, in the course of getting in my winter firewood. At some point it occurred to me that, in the woods, at least, I spent less time and effort in obtaining fuel — that is, in felling, limbing and sectioning trees — than I did in picking up after myself.

I was cutting around a small meadow, woods-edge trees that I could make fall in the clear for easier handling. A mature hardwood growing in a setting like this has some significant part of its total mass in its smaller side and upper branches. These have little use at any conflagration greater than a weenie roast. They are not firewood. What are they?

Reader, they are brush.

Even an amateur, one-man cordwood operation like mine produces

brush the way a pillow fight in the boys' dorm produces feathers: abundantly, uncontrollably, inconveniently. What is to be done with it?

Well, you can burn it. But to burn, your brush must be dry, and if it's dry, then very often so are its surroundings. Little fires easily become big fires. Again, you can let it lie. After all, brush is only sticks. They decay and disappear. But this solution, too, has its risks. The brush is in your way. As you work, you must step on it, around it, through it. You must trip over it — not recommended when operating a chain saw.

Therefore, you pause in your woodcutting to pick up the accumulating brush and gather it in one place, handy but out of the way. The result is a brush pile, a humble product that would seem to have no meaning beyond the purely practical, but whose construction, at least in my hands, can take on an energy of its own that quickly rises above need, sense, even reason.

Brush piles have an architecture. They have a design, because their builder gives them a design. For my part, I like to build high. I have made brush piles that were seven or eight feet tall. They look like the dark and silent lodges of a deserted Indian village that the forest is reclaiming. In fact, the comparison is not completely fanciful: brush piles are the forest's cities of refuge. They provide shelter for a host of small creatures. The songbird can duck into a brush pile to escape the hunting hawk. The mouse can make its nest deep in the recesses of a brush pile and raise its young in relative safety. In addition, brush piles

make the uppermost parts of forest trees accessible to the deer, turkeys and other browsers who, when the trees are standing, can't reach the lofty buds and fruits they rely on for food. Altogether, if your aim is to assist a piece of woodland in supporting wildlife, you can do a lot worse than spend your time making brush piles.

I would like to say that it is such mature considerations related to safety — my own and the little birds' — that lead me to take the pains I do on my own brush piles. I stack my brush with care, positioning and repositioning branches on the pile, even using loppers to trim sticks that don't lie securely. It can be slow work. Maneuvering a 10-foot, zigzagging beech branch onto the top of a pile in thick woods is like trying to open an umbrella in a phone booth. I thrash and flail about like a mad fly-fisherman far from the stream.

And eventually I wonder: Why? Why bother? The brush doesn't care how neatly it is laid down. Even my wild beneficiaries, the warblers and wood mice, don't care. Only I care, and only, I think, because of the human instinct for good order, even quite superfluous good order, which these reflections began by proposing. Everybody seeks order in his life somewhere, somehow. Everybody loves form. Your brush is only sticks. Whatever you do or don't do with them, they decay and disappear. You might as well toss them together any old way. You might — but you don't. ➤

You can hear the author read his essay at www.VermontLife.com.

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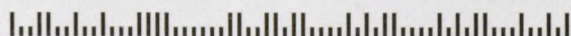
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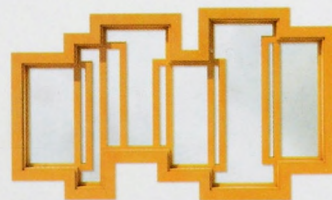
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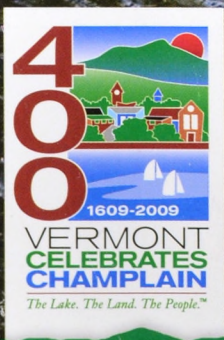
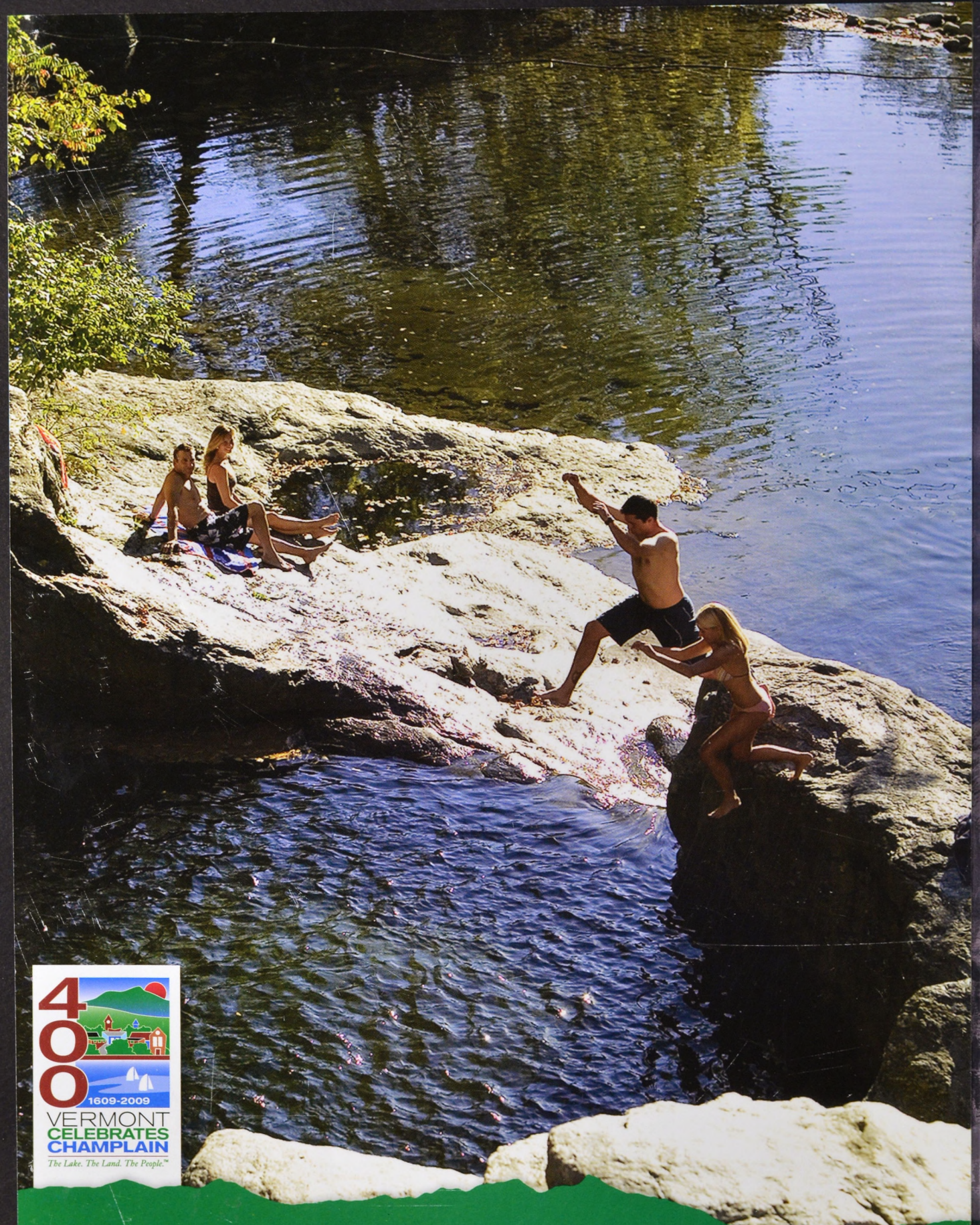
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